

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

**PEACE OF CHRIST -
HAND IN HAND COMMUNITY**

NKORANZA, GHANA



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Hand in Hand

Community Ghana

Contents:

1. Summary
2. General review and developments 2016
3. Background information + History Hand in Hand
4. Report on the Sheltered Workshop
5. Organization, staff and management
6. Financial information
7. Conclusion and acknowledgment

Annex 1: Financial statement 2016



1. Summary

The year 2016 was a good and in fact rather quiet year in the ongoing unique history of the Peace of Christ Foundation and the PCC – Hand in Hand Community. During this year we could welcome quite some new and good developments.

In 2016 2 new residents were accepted from KCH and 1 young adult came to PCC as a new worker in the Sheltered Workshop.

There are now 95 children and young adults living in the Community, 74 are living permanently in our Community, while 21 young adults, coming from outside PCC, are attached to the Sheltered Workshop, spending about 9 – 10 months per year in PCC.

After the major boost for the PCC physiotherapy in 2015 we received even more expertise input during 2016. Nowadays thanks to this input and all efforts the quality of our physiotherapeutic care has increased a lot!

Also the various Day Care programmes were renewed and improved in 2016.

We were able to continue the new PCC Outreach Program, aimed to inform, advise and support parents of children with intellectual disabilities in the many villages of Nkoranza District and to improve the social conditions of these children. PCC started this new activity for children and young adults with intellectual disabilities in 2015 and the program is still expanding!

The Peace of Christ Foundation is able to run the still growing Community in Nkoranza already for 24 years, mainly through contributions from sponsors and donors overseas. Their input amounts up to about 80% of our annual budget.

We are proud to generate locally about 20% of the needed funds, helping us to become financially more independent. Our guesthouses are attractive for visitors and recommended by various travel guides and agencies. Running the guesthouses and the restaurant helps us to make some profit, while additional funds are generated via the sale of products from the Sheltered Workshop in our shop as well as in Europe. In 2016 we also welcomed an well appreciated increase in local donations!

Nowadays about 45 persons are members of our Ghanaian team of caregivers and other workers. We also provide an interesting working place for average 3-5 foreign volunteers at a time, mainly from Europe, who all come to Ghana for at least 3 months to assist PCC in caring for our children, mostly by participating in the Special Attention programme.

Since 2010 the Governing Board of PCC has 4 members: Dr Albert van Galen, general director, Mr Samuel Kwame Baffo, project director, Mr Emmanuel Amponsah Daasebre, care director and Mrs Jeannette van Galen - Wattel, education director and supervisor of the sheltered workshop.

What started in 1992 as a small seed has grown over the years into a wonderful place full of peace, love and care for many intellectually and multiple disabled and abandoned children. We are happy that also during the whole of 2016 our children could benefit from living in the Community, which is very much their own peaceful place on earth.

We are grateful to God for all blessings showered upon our Community as well as to all sponsors, donors, workers and volunteers who supported us in a great way throughout 2016, helping us to maintain and even improve PCC as an unique and loving Community.

On behalf of the Board of PCC Ghana,

Albert van Galen, M.D.
General Director PCC – Hand in Hand Community

2. General review and developments 2016

General

The year 2016 was a fine and rather quiet year for the PCC – Hand in Hand Community. In general we are happy with and quite positive about the present situation and grateful for all new developments in PCC. We were able to continue offering a safe home, a loving environment and good care to all PCC residents and workshop children. The atmosphere in PCC is very good and many children are happy and almost all are healthy, of course this also depends on their character, disability and nature.

Residents

Thinking about 2016 we enjoyed many moments of happiness, but there were also some events to be worried about. Various children were admitted in the Hospital and some were so sick that we feared for their life, e.g. Abass and Mariella, while James proved to suffer a lot from Sickle Cell Anaemia, he needed as much as 3 blood transfusions during 2016. We are therefore grateful to say that at the end of the year Abass, James and Mariella have recovered well from their illnesses.



Stephen after his operation

Two of our boys, Stephen and Moses, had major orthopaedic surgery in November to enable them walking better in the future.

We were also happy to accept 2 children from Kumasi Children's Home, as new permanent residents. They arrived just after 1st January 2017 in PCC.

We also welcomed a young adult boy, Samuel Osei, as a new worker to the sheltered workshop.

PCC is now caring for a total number of **95** children: 74 are permanent residents, while 21 young adults are participating in the sheltered workshop, most of them are living 9 – 10 months per year in the boys- or girls dormitory.

It remains so wonderful to see how children, given up and abandoned elsewhere, are able to grow and flourish very well here. They are really at home in our Community, where they can live together with many comparable children. In fact, this is really their own home, their Community and with that philosophy in mind everyone tries to care for them in the best possible way.

Quality of food

During the year 2016 we continued giving special attention to the quality of the food given to the children three times daily. We still try to improve on certain aspects, like more different types of food, less starch and more protein rich food, more fruits, beans cake, eggs etc.

Our children are very much in favour of it, they respond quite well to all changes.

Important developments in PCC during 2016

Quite a lot of important developments in 2016 are worth mentioning:

- Last year we started with a new activity, the Outreach Program in the Nkoranza District to uplift the social conditions for many children with intellectual or multiple disabilities and epilepsy, living in the numerous villages of the District. PCC is not

able to accept all intellectually disabled children from Ghana as residents in PCC, so we feel it's very important that we are able to advise, support and direct the parents well when they are trying to cope with the difficult situation at home. The aim of the Outreach Program is to support children living with intellectual disabilities by using a community based approach. We also try to create public awareness about the rights of the children and change negative perceptions that people might have. Some important activities are: advocacy via FM radio and during visits to the villages, formation of Parent Support Groups, starting Day Care Centers in the villages, giving anti-epileptic drugs or support children via the livelihood program to become economically more independent.



Benjamin enjoying exercising in the physio

- The quality of the physiotherapy for our physically disabled children got a great boost in 2015 by Dutch senior physiotherapy expert, Inge Maters. She returned to PCC in 2016, together with her colleague Ingrid and introduced more physio exercises, using new physio materials and giving an advanced training to our caregivers.

Another colleague of Inge, Marian, helped a lot to improve the quality of care in our Day Care program.

- We were very grateful when receiving a very nice donation from Holland enabling us to buy as much as 4 (!) new washing machines for our laundry. This reduces the workload for the caregivers when washing the dirty clothes of the children.
- During 2016 we were able to continue to do some minor repairs and a few bigger renovations in various houses at the compound. The general condition of most houses in PCC is nowadays quite OK.
- Our Dutch film makers Martin and Corinne produced a very nice new PCC Info DVD. Many people expressed their appreciation and admiration for the new DVD and often use it to inform more people about the good work PCC is doing.
- PCC's old generator broke down in the course of 2015. It was a 49 (!)-year-old machine, so there was not much reason for complaint. But we did have a problem of course! There are frequently power cuts in Ghana and then water pumps, washing machines, deep freezers and refrigerators, sewing machines in the sheltered workshop and of course the lights and ventilators, televisions etc. won't work. Fortunately - with great thanks to our Dutch foundation and a few donors - we were able to purchase a new generator.



Agreement with the Dutch Hand in Hand foundation

In December 2012 the Board of PCC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Dutch Hand in Hand foundation, to confirm the good and close cooperation of both foundations for the long term upkeep of PCC.

The purpose of the cooperation between PCC and HIH is to guarantee the best possible care for all disabled children and young adults living in PCC, to get the necessary financial support for PCC, to create a continuous and stimulating exchange of expertise and ideas to support the PCC Board with Management and Administration and to develop an adequate long term policy in order to ensure good quality care in PCC for many years. This agreement guarantees the very important long term support for PCC!

Like in the previous years also during 2016 PCC received the majority of its foreign contributions for the running of PCC from the Dutch Hand in Hand foundation. Through the Dutch foundation PCC also received support from the English charitable support organisation Hand in Hand UK as well as from the German support organisation Ananse.

Caregivers

During the year 2016 5 new Ghanaian caregivers came to join our team, to replace some old caregivers who left PCC during the year.



At 31st December 2016 we have 32 caregivers (2015: 31), caring for our 74 young permanent residents as well as for 21 semi-permanent young adults in the sheltered workshop.

In October 2016 we organised the first ever Caregivers Day in PCC as a sign of our appreciation for the good work done by our caregivers in caring for all PCC children during the year. It was a wonderful day and a great success!

Happy caregivers are a very important key factor for success in PCC

Volunteers and Helping Guests

In 2016 we had the very appreciated support of various volunteers, mainly coming from Holland and Germany.

Most volunteers from abroad come to stay with us for 3 – 6 months.

In July 2016 another group medical students came via SKIP from the UCL in London as volunteers to PCC, for the 6th successive year! An important part of their activities is giving lectures on selected medical topics to our Caregivers. This was well appreciated and all caregivers who attended these lectures received a special Certificate.

Christmas 2016

For many years already the highlight of the year in Hand in Hand is the celebration of Christmas and New Year's Eve. This is done during a week full of activities, PCC parties, special music by choirs and dancing groups and of course with some small presents and good food.

All special activities during the X-mas season were a great success. We had a singing and dancing group, a special party with a befriended church from Techiman and there was once more a wonderful Christmas play, performed by all children of PCC, with James playing the little Jesus who was very proud when carried around by the people!

Visitors

We were happy to welcome quite some visitors to our Community in 2016. They stayed in our Guesthouses, some for one day, others much longer. Almost without exception all visitors are very positive and impressed by the atmosphere and the good care provided at Hand in Hand. It has been like that over the years and obviously the Spirit of PCC is also touching many visitors!



4 new washing machines for our laundry!

3. Background information about the “Hand in Hand Community”

In the rural areas of Ghana intellectually disabled children are sometimes still referred to as “water-children”. Local tradition claims that these children are born as a result of a woman being raped by a water-spirit. Water spirits, real or not, are thus causing havoc in people’s lives and the water-children, being half spirits and half human, are much feared. In the traditional way the disabled child is put back along the riverside where these spirits are staying. At night the spirits then submerge and take the children “back home” to the depth of the river. Luckily these traditional concepts are gradually changing.

In Nkoranza the presence of our many special children has already caused a sustained positive change. In the beginning we had a real problem finding caregivers who could rise above the fears and family pressures of the local community and have enough courage to live with our kids. Now, more than 24 years later, our caregivers form a loving and stable team and in general we have no problems in finding new caregivers anymore!

Apart from the dangerous traditional belief-systems, the parents have to cope with the universally experienced feelings of agony when faced with having a disabled child. It is not surprising therefore, that some of these children are abandoned somewhere, starved or hidden away in small rooms and sheds, while others are laid abandoned in public places in the hope that someone may find them and keep them alive. It is for abandoned children like these that PCC offers a warm and loving home.

Most of the children in PCC came on a transfer from Governmental Children’s Homes in Accra or Kumasi. This is where most abandoned foundlings are brought if they are lucky enough to survive. Apart from this, we also accept children on request of the local or regional Social Welfare, other orphanages and hospitals from all over Ghana.

History

Our community started in 1992 through an initiative of four health-professionals, 3 Ghanaians and one Ghanaian-Dutch, Dr. Ineke Bosman. She was the driving force behind

the foundation and without her the Community would not have emerged and developed to what it is nowadays, a Community with an unique and appealing atmosphere.

Our premises are large, 24 acres of hilly land with a lovely natural setting. The land is beautiful with natural sources and awesome rock-formations. The buildings where the children and their caregivers are living do form a half circle of small cottages. At the other side of the semi-circle of children-cottages lay the guesthouses for our visitors.

The Sheltered workshop was realized in 2003 and expanded between 2005 and 2009. In 2012 a small, but nice sensory room was created and in 2014 we started with the House of Silence for some children, who prefer working very quietly. Our special Summer School started in 2010 and is active the whole year for some groups of our children, guided by some caregivers who got a special in-service training.



Abass during his rhabilitation program

Caregivers are living like parents with their children. They sleep together, play together, bath their children, eat with them and bring them to school or workshop. The caregivers also have general assignments in the group, such as running daycare, cooking, autism room, classes, supervising the swimming-hour, etc. Emphasis is laid on warmth, fun and love.

We loyally adhere to a precise daily routine so that the children may feel safe. A good and predictable structure is a very important cornerstone for our Community.

Highlight of the daily schedule is the 4 PM swimming-time where the children bath, exercise and have fun with the water. This "pool-happening" is also the beginning of the end of the day. Afterwards kids and caregivers eat together and then retreat to watch TV or movies or move to their cottages. At 8 PM all are quiet and go asleep.

4. PCC Sheltered Workshop Annual Report 2016

There are several divisions in the sheltered workshop and are all functioning very well under Mr. Emmanuel Boyan as the workshop coordinator combines two functions in PCC, as he is 1 of the 2 workers of the Outreach Programme as well.

Beads hall

In this hall most of our young adults are working. In general these children are very happy and communicate well with the supervising caregivers. The production of necklaces, key holders, bracelets, hip strings and ankle bracelets has become their hobby. At the end of the year, the total number of kids in the Beads Hall is: 22.

Weaving Department

In the Weaving Hall 7 youngsters are having a good time every day with Kente weaving, producing beautiful materials to produce nice bags, purses and scarfs.

Sewing Department

This sector helps the workshop to generate extra income for PCC by producing a wide variety of products, including various types of bags, aprons, placemats, purses, picnic cloths, all very appreciated by many visitors of our PCC shop as well as by clients overseas.

Autism Table

The Autistic kids are still enjoying their light and airy place. Caregivers have been trained and nowadays do understand more of the situation of autistic kids. We try as much as possible to do things that interest them, including colouring and drawing, playing with water, painting on papers and walls, playing with sand, dancing and drumming. At the end of 2016, there were 10 children gathering every day at the Autism Table.

House of Silence

In the House of Silence about 7 of our young adults from the workshop are now spending a good time there every day again in a very quiet, relaxing atmosphere.

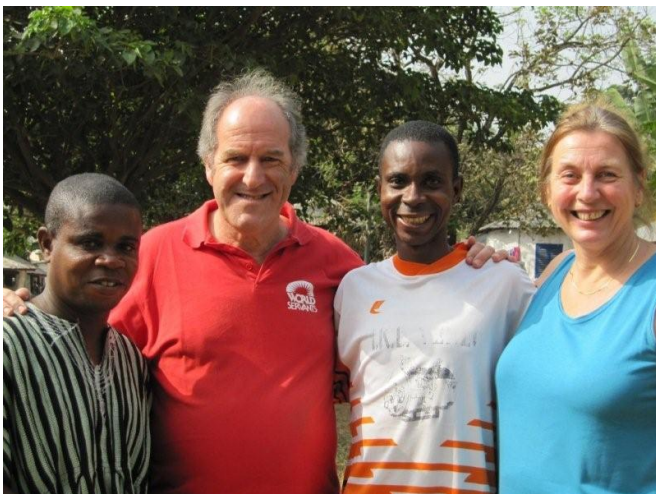
5. About organization, staff and management

The aim of PCC / Hand in Hand is to give integral care to abandoned and intellectually disabled children from all over Ghana. The style is open and family like. Children live in small groups of two or three with a caregiver, who is acting as an alternative mother or father figure for their kids. Attendance to school, rehabilitation, medical care, therapy, joint meals, joint siestas in the siesta room and of course music and play are all part of the daily program.

The caregivers who live and work with the children consider their service as voluntary. They receive a monthly allowance as well as free boarding and lodging with the children they are caring for.

The workshop has its own coordinator, Mr. Emmanuel Boyan, who is responsible for all activities in the workshop.

PCC Board



Since 2010 the **Board of PCC / Hand in Hand** has 4 members:

Dr. Albert Van Galen, chairman and General Director,

Mr. Samuel Baffo, Project Director,

Mr. Emma Daasebre, Care Director

and

Mrs. Jeannette van Galen, Education Director + supervisor of the workshop.

The guesthouses + restaurant are 2 special parts of PCC. Our hostesses plus three cleaners are supporting this part of PCC. Mr. Baffo is in charge and Mrs. Jeannette van Galen supervises the maintenance of the guesthouses.

The "Araba memorial Internet café" is a small, separate department. There are 3 staffs and a cleaner employed.

6. Financial information

(Ref. Annex 1 for the 2016 financial statement)

Income Sheltered Workshop 2016

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| The net result of sales <u>in Ghana</u> for the Sheltered Workshop was: | Cedi 16.213 |
| The amount received from <u>sales paid Overseas</u> was: | Cedi 12.815 |
| = general sales (167) + sales to HIH foundation in Holland (12.648) | ----- |
| So the total result of the Sheltered Workshop in 2016 was: | Cedi 29.028 |
| <i>The Sheltered Workshop transferred to the PCC Main account:</i> | <i>Cedi 15.000</i> |

Income Guesthouses and Restaurant 2016

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Profit of the GH and Restaurant in Ghana in 2016 was: | Cedi 27.930 |
| The amount received Overseas and not yet included in the profit: | Cedi 23.699 |
| | ----- |
| So the total result of GH and Restaurant in 2016 was: | Cedi 51.629 |

TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURES 2016

PCC/Hand in Hand works without government aid, so the money for running PCC and for new investments comes mainly from donations and sponsorships from outside Ghana.

INCOME

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| - Total regular Income | Cedi 493.244 |
| - Extra Income received for constructions, projects etc. | Cedi 77.338 |

This makes a **Total Income** of Cedi: **Cedi 570.582**

EXPENDITURES

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| - The recurrent Expenditures in 2016 amounted to: | Cedi 497.505 |
| - Other Expenditures, made for building activities and other extra budgetary projects, amounted up to: | Cedi 82.989 |

The all-over **Total Expenditures** were Cedi: **Cedi 580.494**

The year ended with an extra input of Cedi 10.605 from the GCB account and a small deficit on the ADB account, in total a financial loss over 2016 of Cedi: **20.517 -/-**
(See Annex 1 for more details)

7 Acknowledgment

We are very grateful to our staff members and caregivers, to our volunteers, our many friends and to all our sponsors and benefactors. Without their great efforts, dedicated work and appreciated support we could not continue functioning as we are able to do nowadays.

It is our belief that we are involved in a vision and a commitment that is larger than that of all of us together. We believe that the Spirit of God and the Peace of Christ are at the heart of it. This may also explain the joy and peace that many people, including complete strangers, experience at our premises. Therefore looking back to 2016 we can't say anything else but:

Thanks to the Almighty God, who blessed our Community for another year in a wonderful way. Amen.

Annex 1: Statement of account for the year 2016 – PCC General

Start ADB 1/1/2016:

22.736Income

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| HIH: budget + other contrib. | 343.800 |
| Extra input from GCB account | 10.605 |
| Guesthouses + restaurant | 51.629 |
| Internet café | 5.500 |
| Sheltered workshop | 29.028 |
| Lilian Fund | 25.000 |
| Local donations | 21.362 |
| Income farm/goats | 3.320 |
| Refund Paul A. | 3.000 |

493.244

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| HIH for constructions | 38.640 |
| HIH for projects | 30.865 |
| Overseas payment | 6.433 |
| Refund loans | 1.400 |

Total Income **570.582**Expenditures

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Allowances | 178.033 |
| Feeding | 148.479 |
| Party costs | 4.623 |
| Repairs General | 12.468 |
| Repairs houses | 21.196 |
| Repairs + Insur. Cars | 11.042 |
| Electricity | 21.207 |
| Personal needs | 27.377 |
| Omo & Soap | 7.120 |
| T & T | 12.632 |
| Medical | 28.073 |
| Accountant / legal | 1.900 |
| Bank Charges + | 1.091 |
| Others | 15.598 |
| Outreach | 6.336 |
| Education | 330 |

497.505

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Constructions | 63.832 |
| Projects | 11.604 |
| Overseas payment | 6.433 |
| Special loan | 1.120 |

Total expenditures **580.494**Balance at ADB Bank 31/12/16 **12.824**

+

Balance at GCB Bank 31/12/16 (= mainly transfers HIH) **96.721**