



Newsletter 12, April 2016

Dear friends,

This already is the 12th Newsletter of PCC – Hand in Hand – and the first of 2016. Together with our readers we would like to look back on the past year and forward to our plans for 2016. We would also like to inform you about various interesting developments concerning our Community. Lastly, we would like to introduce you to a few new residents. Have fun reading!

In general

The main point of all our newsletters really always is giving an answer to the important question: "How are PCC and all its residents doing at the moment?" Fortunately, we can answer this question with a sincere "Very well!".

The children are fine. There haven't been any seriously ill children over the last period of time, except for Yaa Yaa's jaundice and James' anaemia. Both are healthy and well again.

Everything is running smoothly in the Community, there is a predominantly positive and enthusiastic atmosphere here and almost everybody who is visiting us is leaving with a happy feeling.



2015 in retrospect

Again a lot has happened in 2015 and of course it is not possible to mention all new developments in this Newsletter. We would like to present you the most important facts though below:

Boost for physiotherapy:



Thanks to physiotherapy-expert Inge Maters, who was in PCC for two months last summer to improve the level of physiotherapy here, we have been able to boost the quality of our physiotherapy and increase the level in care of the (also) physically handicapped children in PCC of which there are many. And this year June Inge will be back together with a colleague of hers for an update and a further increase in the quality of physiotherapy in PCC, how wonderful!

PCC is spreading its wings: since spring 2015 a few people of PCC have regularly been visiting the many, many villages in the wide surroundings of Nkoranza in order to support and advise disabled children, their parents, the village elders and other villagers as much as possible.

Our aim is to also help improve the fate of physically and/or intellectually disabled children who are living outside PCC. We are much satisfied with the first results and the positive response from various villages.

Map PCC: because PCC has extended its area quite a bit during the past years, there was a need for a detailed map of PCC and with the help of Jocé Schippers we are in the proud possession of a

wonderful new map of the entire PCC compound. The complete power network has also been neatly mapped including our 17 (!) electricity meters.

Baffo's visit to the Netherlands: Baffo is still looking back thankfully and with a pleasure on his enjoyable and informative visit to the Netherlands. He stayed here for one month after being invited by the Dutch foundation of Hand in Hand.

His meetings with the board of HIH the Netherlands have been very useful and inspiring, as were Baffo's many informative work visits to institutions, day care centres, churches and friends of PCC – Hand in Hand etc..

Building and renovation: apart from some smaller and larger renovations of some older houses a new house was built in the second half of 2015 with the help and support of G8 Groningen. The opening of this wonderful new asset on the first of January 2016 was a festive occasion. PCC is now able to take on 6-9 new children because of this new space.



New residents: in the course of 2015 we haven't taken on no fewer than seven new children as permanent residents and admitted one new worker in the Sheltered Workshop.

This is resulting in a total amount of 93 residents at the moment and a PCC team of over 45 caregivers and other employees! More than enough people to make PCC a small and pleasant village.

We will introduce some of our new residents separately to you further below in this Newsletter.

Lizzy, Deborah and Esther



Deborah and Esther

In October we took on three sweet little girls, who had already been living in Kumasi Children's Home for quite some time. Lizzy, Deborah and Esther are better off in PCC. Since the three of them arrived in Nkoranza they seem very much at their ease. They clearly feel at home here in the Community, which is wonderful to see! Welcome and all the best.

Annual Report PCC

For the real PCC fan: the informative Annual Report of PCC for 2015 is out and can be found and read integrally on our website.

All previous Annual Reports can also be found on the same website.

Our plans for 2016

One of our most important objects for 2016 has been realised in the mean time: a new generator.

But there are many more plans on our list:

A – A further extension of our important Outreach work in the surrounding villages;

B – A new, bigger and sturdy donkey cart to go riding with the younger children both in and outside the compound;

C – Adjustments to and renovation of some older houses in the compound;

D – New and stronger washing machines for our launderette. Because there are

more residents there is more laundry to be washed.

E – More devices for physiotherapy and for the support of good mobility of various children;

F – New chairs, new evening and school clothes, more training for our caregivers etc. etc..

So, enough plans and with the support of our many friends and donors we hope to realize many if not all our plans for this year.

New generator

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! Fortunately, we were able to purchase a new generator, which has recently been set up in PCC much to the joy of everybody here.

All thanks to our Dutch foundation and a few donors.

There are quite often power cuts in Ghana and then our water pumps, washing machines, deep freezers and refrigerators, sewing machines in the sheltered workshop and of course the lights and ventilators, television etc won't work.



We can produce our own Electricity again

But our problems are over, thanks to a wonderful new stand-by generator and thanks to Paul Lamberts who has worked very hard for this. And thanks to all who have contributed to this brand new generator.

Christmas and New Year 2015

Christmas and New Year were celebrated in the usual happy and musical fashion of a week of celebrations and festivities. The Christmas Play by the children, in which a glorious James played the new born Jesus, was the absolute climax of this week.



Silver Jubilee PCC in 2017!

So, it will take another year but we cannot be early enough to draw your attention to the fact that in 2017 it will be 25 years ago that PCC – Hand in Hand was founded. Reason enough for throwing a party, because of course we cannot miss the opportunity of celebrating our Silver Jubilee.

New Information-DVD

Our film-maker Martine and his wife Corinne shot a lot of new material around Christmastime to update our special PCC Info-DVD.

It is promising to become a wonderful film (we have already watched a preview of it and we are very enthusiastic...!!!). The finishing touch is still being put to the film so we will have to try your patience for a while.

Nyamekye

Our youngest new resident is Nyamekye, a lovely little guy. He was born as a consequence of the sexual abuse of his handicapped and neglected mother, Baagyei. She was taken on in PCC just after Nyamekye's birth at the beginning of last year.

Nyamekye has also been living in PCC since September. He is being cared of separate from his mother and he is pampered by everyone. Have a look at his wonderful smile.



Nyamekye

Sponsoring

There are still children for whom we are looking for a full or partly sponsoring. Please check our website, for instance at the Homepage.

You can also get more information from our sponsor administrator Nieske: sponsors@operationhandinhand.nl or via handinhandpcc@gmail.com



Lizzy

Finally

So far for this 12th Newsletter. We hope you are fully updated again now. Every 14 days you can find a new update on the ups and downs of PCC in the column "Albert's Corner" on our website: www.handinhandcommunity.com

Cordial greetings on behalf of the PCC Board, that is Baffo, Joe Emma, Jeannette and me and of course from everyone else at PCC!

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