

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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

NKORANZA, GHANA



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Hand in Hand

Community Ghana

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1. Summary

The year 2017 was a very special year in the unique history of the Peace of Christ Foundation and the PCC – Hand in Hand Community, it was the year of the Silver Jubilee! The Silver Jubilee got attention during the whole year. The main celebration was by the end of the year and it was great!

In 2017 2 x 2 new residents were accepted from KCH and 1 young adult came to PCC as a new worker in the Sheltered Workshop, while 2 young adults from the Sheltered Workshop were able to return to their villages, with support of our Outreach programme.

There are now 96 children and young adults living in the Community, 76 are living permanently in our Community, while 20 young adults, coming from outside PCC, are attached to the Sheltered Workshop, spending about 9 – 10 months per year in PCC.

In 2017 we were able to complete a major renovation of our pool. We also had to face a major problem when the tree “that saw it all” lost some huge branches, we had to cut it down to avoid danger for our residents.

With the help of G* we completed a new house, the Jubilee House.

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.

The Peace of Christ Foundation is able to run the still growing Community in Nkoranza already for 25 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.

In 2017 we also welcomed a well appreciated increase in local donations!

Nowadays about 47 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 the same 4 members: Dr Albert van Galen, general director, Mr Samuel Kwame Baffo, project director, Mr Emmanuel Daasebre Amponsah, 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 2017 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 2017, 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 2017

General

The year 2017 was very special for the PCC – Hand in Hand Community as we were able to celebrate our 25th Anniversary! What a miracle has happened since PCC started in 1992.

In general we are very 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 almost all children are smiling and healthy, of course this also depends on their character, disability and nature.

Residents

We believe 2017 was a good and pleasant year for most of our residents, though some were suffering from some illnesses or mood swings on and off. But we are happy to say that there were hardly serious sicknesses or major problems during the year.

Just like in 2016 2 boys, Stephen and Moses, needed major orthopaedic surgery in November, with the aim of enabling them to walk better in the future.

Abass continued recovering well from his very serious illness in 2016 and James still needed some blood transfusions due to anemia because of his serious Sickle Cell disease.



Sara

In total 4 new children from Kumasi Children's Home came to PCC, 2 in January and 2 in November, being Sara and Solomon resp. David and *Reuben* (his [picture is on page 8](#)).

We also welcomed a young adult girl, Akua, as a new worker to the sheltered workshop and provided Day Care to a girl called Mommy for the whole of 2017.

Two young adults, Amoakowaa and Simon, could be reunited with their families and reintegrated in their own village with support of our Livelihood Outreach Programme, while the family of Samuel decided to keep him home to help his sick mother.

By the end of 2017 PCC cares for a total number of **96** children: 76 are permanent residents, while 20 young adults are participating in the sheltered workshop, most of them living for 9 to 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 2017 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 2017

Quite a lot of important developments in 2017 are worth mentioning:

- It was on our wish list long before 2017 and this year it has finally been realized: the grand renovation of our Community's swimming pool. The pool looks wonderful, there is now a good connection between the small pool for our little and vulnerable children and the big pool. There is now a big wall around the pool where caregivers and others can sit and watch the children. The pool has also been fenced to prevent children from going in without good supervision. It is a great asset to have such a nice and beautiful pool and it is used every single day of the year. We are grateful to all who contributed to this renovation.



- The quality of the physiotherapy for our physically disabled children improved greatly in 2015 and 2016 after the visits of Dutch senior physiotherapy expert, Inge Maters. In 2017 a colleague of Inge, Wim van den Bosch came to PCC for another boost with the introduction of more physio exercises and the good usage of physio materials.
- We were very happy and grateful to the G8 group from the Netherlands when once again (for the 6th time!!) they came to support PCC. This time, just like in 2015, they supported us financially as well as in the construction of a beautiful new house, the *Jubilee House*! We are grateful for such good and loyal friends.
- During 2017 we were also 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.
- In July Father Benneh, who left Ghana for the USA soon after, baptised 6 new PCC residents (Deborah, Esther, Lizzy, Nana Yaw = Nyamekye, Sara and Solomon) during a beautiful and solemn baptism service in our own wonderful rock church! We are grateful to Father Benneh for his services to PCC.
- We faced an almost a dramatic event, the fall of the huge, beautiful and very



shady tree in the centre of PCC. We all miss this tree with its big red flowers and the yellow-black weaver birds weaving their artistic bird's nests, especially when the scorching sun starts shining brighter in the dry season and there is no shade.

The view of the PCC Centre has surely changed without this tree, it's less monumental, but there is nothing we can do.

Trees come and go, but PCC will exist forever!

As a result of the falling of the tree the big summer hut in the centre of PCC was also damaged, we had to renew it completely, but enjoy the new hut a lot!

- The PCC main Kitchen made a transfer from cooking on firewood and charcoal to cooking on gas. For years it has not always been easy to work in Janet's kitchen due to the disturbing smoke of the firewood used in the kitchen. But this has now come to an end as in May we were able to install a new gas installation, including new stoves and a big gas cylinder. Janet and all others are so happy!
- Various minor projects were also completed with the help of many donors and supporters from all over the world. It enabled us to buy new fridges and freezers for the 2 kitchens, a new mower, new mattresses for the Siesta room and the Royal Community Hall and so on. Great and wonderful, the continuous support of so many people to PCC over the years!

Caregivers

During the year 2017 7 new Ghanaian caregivers came to join our team, to replace some old caregivers who left PCC during the year.

At 31st December 2017 we have 32 caregivers (2016: 32), caring for our 76 young permanent residents as well as for 20 semi-permanent young adults in the sheltered workshop.



In October 2017 we organised a 2nd 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, an important key factor for success in PCC

Agreement with the Dutch Hand in Hand foundation

In December 2017 the Board of PCC renewed the 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 MoU was first signed in 2012.

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 2017 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.

Volunteers and Helping Guests

In 2017 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 January we were happy to welcome 2 groups from the Emmaus church in Bodegraven, Holland, both coming to do voluntary work. They painted, repaired and decorated all over PCC and last but not least they created the wonderful interactive *Jubilee Square* on the rock behind the pool, first sign of the Silver Jubilee in 2017!

In 2017 a group of SKIP volunteers from the UCL in London came to PCC but their performance was poor and disappointing and the guidance of the SKIP group given by the SKIP Board of Trustees was even worse. Therefore the Board of PCC had no other option but to end our relation with SKIP.

There was also good news from the UK when a delegation of the Hand in Hand UK Charity that supports PCC, the Sue Hatton group, visited PCC for about 10 days. For years Sue Hatton is our autism expert and together with Elizabeth Attfield she gave some nice and practical lectures on Autism to all PCC caregivers.

Silver Jubilee and Christmas celebrations

Without any doubt the highlight of the year 2017 was the celebration of the Silver jubilee by the end of December, just after Christmas. It was a great event and we were very happy to have many dignitaries from Ghana, including 2 MP's, 1 Deputy Minister, various Chiefs and Queen Mothers from the Nkoranza Traditional Area and the MCE, as well as many guests from abroad, including a representative of the Dutch Hand in Hand Foundation.



PCC Parade in Nkoranza

All special activities during the Silver Jubilee and Christmas celebrations were a great success, in particular the Parade through the streets of Nkoranza and the Jubilee Durbar.

In a Thanksgiving service we thanked the Almighty God for his love, guidance and blessings during 25 years and we prayed for his blessings for PCC in the future.

Visitors

We were happy to welcome quite some visitors to our Community in 2017. 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!

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, 25 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.



Reuben

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.

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 2017

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.

Weaving Department

In the Weaving Hall young adults 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 2017, there were 10 children gathering every day around 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. PCC Outreach Project

In 2015 PCC 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.

In 2017 we were happy to open the first Day Care Centre in the District, in Kyeradeso, (see picture on page 9) supported by the elders of the village, the District Assemblée representative and the parents.

Other important aspects are the firm grow in the Livelihood project as well as helping in establishing more and more active Parent Support Groups in various villages.

The Outreach Project publishes its own Annual Report 2017. Interested persons can receive a digital copy on request just by sending an email to: handinhandcommunity@gmail.com.

6. 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.

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



PCC Board

Dr. Albert Van Galen, chairman and General Director,

Mr. Samuel Baffo, Project Director,

Mr. Emma Daasebre Amponsah, Care Director

and

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

Nowadays the PCC Board is supported by 2 Ghanaian Advisory Persons, Mrs. Gifty Ama Asante (working at MOH, Accra) and Mr. Daniel Opoku (accountant in Accra).

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 PCC department.

7. Financial information

(Ref. Annex 1 for the 2017 financial statement)

Income Sheltered Workshop 2017

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| The net result of sales <u>in Ghana</u> for the Sheltered Workshop: | Cedi 21.623 |
| The amount of <u>sales in Ghana, but paid Overseas</u> : | Cedi 15.459 |
| = sales to <i>HIH foundation in Holland</i> (9.010) + other sales (6.449) | ----- |
| So the total result of the Sheltered Workshop in 2017 is: | Cedi 37.082 |

Income Guesthouses and Restaurant 2017

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Profit of the GH and Restaurant <u>in Ghana</u> in 2017: | Cedi 43.571 |
| The amount <u>paid Overseas</u> and included in the profit: | Cedi 53.444 |
| | ----- |
| So the total result of GH and Restaurant in 2017 is: | Cedi 97.015 |

TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURES 2017

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 736.409 |
| - Extra Income received for constructions, projects etc. | Cedi 168.068 |
| | ----- |

This makes a **Total Income** of Cedi: **Cedi 904.477**

EXPENDITURES

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| - The recurrent Expenditures in 2017 amounted to: | Cedi 529.300 |
| - Other Expenditures, mainly for Building activities, Silver Jubilee celebrations and other extra budgetary projects, up to: | Cedi 205.250 |
| | ----- |

The all-over **Total Expenditures** is Cedi: **Cedi 734.550**

The year ended with a Total Balance (ADB + GCB) of Cedi **189.401** and started with an Opening Balance (ADB + GCB) of Cedi **109.545**, that means we were able to have a nice surplus of Cedi **79.856** in 2017!

(See Annex 1 for more details)

8 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 2017 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 2017 – PCC General

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Start 1/1/2017 | ADB: | 12.824 |
| | + GCB: | 96.721 |

Income

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| HIH: budget | 441.540 |
| Extra donations via HIH | 16.906 |
| Extra donation for Outreach | 19.675 |
| Extra input from GCB account | 50.184 |
| Guesthouses + restaurant | 97.015 |
| Internet café | 9.000 |
| Lilian Fund | 15.400 |
| Sheltered workshop | 37.082 |
| Local donations | 37.747 |
| Income farm / animals | 10.460 |
| Refund Paul A. | 1.400 |

736.409

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| HIH for constructions | 102.225 |
| HIH for projects | 14.241 |
| HIH extra - for Silver Jubilee | 31.980 |
| Overseas payment | 15.322 |
| Refund special loan | 4.300 |

Total Income 904.477

Expenditures

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Allowances | 220.022 |
| Feeding | 122.306 |
| Party costs | 13.203 |
| Repairs General | 11.507 |
| Repairs houses | 7.624 |
| Repairs + Insur. Cars | 11.027 |
| Electricity | 28.648 |
| Personal needs | 30.059 |
| Omo & Soap | 8.481 |
| T & T | 15.660 |
| Medical | 21.519 |
| Accountant / legal | 1.800 |
| Bank Charges | 1.097 |
| Others | 23.685 |
| Outreach (<u>excl.</u> allowances) | 12.662 |

529.300

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Constructions | 127.999 |
| Projects | 22.342 |
| Overseas payment | 25.137 |
| Special loan etc. | 500 |
| Silver Jubilee | 29.272 |

Total expenditures 734.550

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Balance 31/12/17: ADB Bank | 182.751 |
| + GCB Bank | 6.650 |