



Newsletter 14, May 2017

Dear friends,

It has been half a year since we have sent you an update on the ups and downs of our Community. High time for a next issue of our Newsletter filled with topical and interesting facts about PCC. We certainly hope that this Newsletter will inform you about the good and the bad things in our Community.

General notes

PCC seems to be in a relatively peaceful and stable period of her existence, which is a good thing especially during the festive year of our Silver Jubilee.

There haven't been any great changes lately and fortunately there are no seriously ill children at the moment, although there are always some children we have to worry about. For instance James who has needed no fewer than five blood transfusions within one year because of his sickle-cell anaemia.



James on M' Afia's shoulders

Most of the time things are "simply" well in PCC and while writing this down I realize that it is not at all "simply" well, on the contrary, it is exceptional and this makes us feel very grateful!

New residents

At the beginning of January we welcomed 2 new residents: Sara and Solomon, both from Kumasi Children's Home.



Sara at her arrival in PCC

Sara is about 7/8 and Solomon about 3/4 years old.

Both show mental health disabilities and signs from the autistic spectrum. They are beginning to feel at home in PCC.

2016 in retrospect

We would like to share some special and positive recollections of 2016 with you:

Improvement Daycare

In the course of 2016 we have succeeded in improving the programme for our Daycare groups considerably, we couldn't have done without the expert input of our extern, Marian.

As a result there is more fun, extra positive energy amongst the caregivers and a greater variety in interactive appliances.

And smaller groups: there are even 3 Daycare groups instead of 2 now.

Progressive development in physio

In 2015 physio had already reached a higher level thanks to the arrival, input and one hundred per cent commitment of "our" physiotherapist Inge. In 2016 we saw a boost in a further improvement in the quality and an increase in the motivation of our caregivers involved, also thanks to Inge and her colleague Ingrid.

It makes us all very proud of our PCC physio!

New generator and emergency power supply

At the beginning of 2016 a new generator arrived in PCC, which was installed under the supervision of our Dutch HIH board member Paul Lamberts. Our old generator (bought second hand) had reached the age of 50 (!) and we sincerely hope that our new generator will serve our Community for the same period of time. Our new generator works (if need be) satisfactorily, which makes us very happy.

Paul has also installed an intricate and useful emergency power supply in and about the big kitchen that will work when there is neither electricity nor a generator (continuously) working e.g. at night. This will also bring down expenses.

4 new washing machines

The bigger PCC becomes the more residents and laundry. Clearly we are very pleased with the 4 new and robust washing machines we were able to purchase thanks to a generous donation at the end of 2016 and the beginning of 2017. All stains disappear like snow in Africa!



New Info DVD about PCC

At the end of 2016 a wonderful and very informative new Info DVD about PCC was released thanks to our moviemakers Martin and Corinne.

It is often difficult to explain to others what it exactly is that makes PCC special; according to us this impressive DVD will do the job.

We have already received a lot of enthusiastic reactions.



Solomon at his arrival in PCC

Expansion Outreach Program

PCC's Outreach Program for (intellectually) disabled children in the large Nkoranza District appears to meet the needs of many.

In 2016 a start was made with the support of disabled young adults in their development into independency by for instance offering them an education into mushroom grower or sheep or rabbit farmer, of course all in cooperation with their relatives and village.

PCC annual report 2016

For the true PCC adherents: the much informative annual report of PCC concerning the year 2016 is available now.

The annual report can be found integrally on our website under "Annual reports" for everybody who is interested in reading it.

Our plans for 2017

There are some good plans for the year 2017, too.

It is no ordinary year of course, but a very special one: the year of PCC's Silver Jubilee.

This celebration forms the golden thread in Community life in 2017.

Jubilee Square

The first visible stage of the festive celebrations in 2017 was the development of a wonderful Jubilee Square.

For this a big and grey concrete surface of about 300m² was turned into an attractive and challenging square full of colours and shapes in order to stimulate learning by playing.

The square has become a unique asset to PCC. We would like to thank our friends from Bodegraven, who have also put much work into the embellishment of the Disco.

Wonderful renovation of PCC's pool

It was high on our wish list even long before 2017 and this year it has finally been realized: the grand renovation of our Community's swimming pool.

We would like to refer you to this May's Albert's Corner for more information on and pictures of the pool.

<http://www.operationhandinhand.nl/?p=5403>



Silver Jubilee

During this year we will certainly and more often draw your attention to the happy fact that our Community has been - and still is - functioning as a safe haven for (in the mean time about 100) disabled children for over 25 years.

The great and final jubilee party has been planned during the week between Christmas and New Year's Eve, so in about 6 months.

Come and see for yourself and join us in all our festivities. Share our joy about the small seed that has grown into a unique and fruitful tree! We can only marvel at this and be very grateful.

Abass



Abass

After a long stay in hospital Abass returned to PCC in mid May almost completely paralysed due to a very serious illness.

He had obviously survived it all, however, would he recuperate from the consequences of his disease?

Well, in the mean time we are able to say: marvellously well and much better than we had ever dared to hope. His recuperation has been a long and slow process, but it has been progressive all the time.

He is talking liked he used to (his own and special Abass language!) and he is walking around without help.

Those who have seen him last year after he came home, will not believe their eyes: it's a miracle.

Stephen and Moses after the operation

In November 2016 both Stephen and Moses had an orthopaedic operation in Duayaw Nkwanta. Moses was operated on his pes equinus and the position of Stephen's (too much) bended knees was corrected.

Although relatively little time has passed since they got rid of their plaster casts (Stephen since January and Moses only since April) the results seem a great improvement for the both of them. Whether it will be enough and permanent only the future can tell. So far they have been practising often and hard.



Neither cast nor pes equinus for Moses

Augustina

Only those who worked as a volunteer or came as a visitor to PCC many years ago may remember her from the sheltered workshop: Augustina.

She and her mother have recently paid us a visit. But they didn't come alone... Also Augustina's 3 kids...! Grandma is taking care of her grandchildren, because Augustina is unable to. And that is why we have given grandmother and Augustina some support.



Sponsoring

There are still children for whom we are looking for a full or partly sponsoring, e.g. Nyamekye or Lizzy.



Nyamekye

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

Finally

So far for this 14th Newsletter. We hope you are fully updated again.

About once every month you can find a new update about the weal and woe of PCC in the column "Alberts Corner" on our website: www.handinhandcommunity.com

NB: *There are also links via Facebook: (PCCHandinHandCommunity) en Twitter: (PCCHandinHand).*

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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