



Newsletter 15, October 2017

Dear friends,

Cordial greetings from Nkoranza and PCC!

We assume all of you are full of anticipation looking forward to this 15th Newsletter. After all it is already 6 months ago that we informed you about the weal and woe in PCC. Also this time there is a lot to tell as it is clear that during 6 months so much can and actually does happen in PCC.

In general

The grand celebration of the 25th Anniversary of PCC, the Silver Jubilee on 29th and 30th December, comes closer and closer and we are now putting flesh on the bones. E.g. the children have started with practising a special Jubilee Play. Come and see!

In general we are happy that things move on nicely in PCC. Apart from some children on and off being sick almost all are doing very well at the moment.



Kofi Asare on his keyboard

Physiotherapy

Just like the last 2 years also this year the PCC physiotherapy got a boost from the visit of Wim van der Bosch in July.

Wim is a much appreciated colleague of "our" physio expert Inge Maters and for more than 3 weeks he was "dotting all the PCC physio i's" while observing the progress made by the various children and advising on new exercises to the caregivers and capturing it all on video. He also adjusted many wheelchairs, gave some children fitting orthopaedic shoes and performed many more supporting activities for all children in need.

Well done, Wim and thanks!

New wheelchairs for Adwoa, Aaron, Wumpini and Sadat

Thanks to Inge and others we were very privileged being able to supply up to 4 of our residents with new wheelchairs, perfectly customised and adjusted by Wim.



Sadat, Wim and Aaron happy together!

Both Aaron and Sadat received completely new wheelchairs (thanks to the Veldink company!), while Adwoa and Wumpini got some specially selected "home-used" wheelchairs. The 4 of them are enormously happy with their new wheelchair and are now proudly riding around in their new "cars".

Rollator and Keyboard for Kofi Asare

For some years now – unfortunately – our Music Master Kofi Asare experiences more difficulties while walking. Even with a walking stick things do not go well and therefore he is very pleased with his new walker. It's now easier for him again to move over the PCC compound.

And he is awfully bucked with a beautiful new keyboard Jeannette had arranged for him (see picture on p. 1). Till (far too) late in the evening we can now hear him practising, all on hearing and feeling, as Kofi Asare does not need sheet music, he just plays any tune he hears, a natural talent!

Baptising + farewell to father Benneh

The 27th July was a very special day for all of us when Father Benneh baptised our 6 newest residents (being: Deborah, Esther, Lizzy, Nana Yaw = Nyamekye, Sara and Solomon) during a beautiful and solemn baptism service in our own wonderful rock church!

For Sara and Solomon – both being autistic – it was rather exciting, for the other children it was mainly a very special and joyful day.



Shortly after this service Father Benneh left Ghana for the USA and we therefore took the opportunity to thank him for his pastoral care during the many moments of joy and sorrow in the past years.

Kitchen makes transfer from cooking on firewood and charcoal to gas

Those of you who visited Janet's kitchen during the past years when coming to PCC will know that it was not always easy to spend a prolonged stay there as a result of the significant smoke of the firewood used in the kitchen.

But this has now come to an end as we were able in May to install a new gas installation, including new stoves and a big gas cylinder

At first Janet and Fabea regularly had tears in their eyes because of the smoke, now we can see tears of happiness as they need no longer working in the smoke.



Fabea in the smoke free kitchen

Another step forward in making PCC cleaner and more sustainable!

Practical workshop on autism

Over the years it has become a nice and good tradition:

every 2 year Sue Hatton and Elizabeth Attfield from England will come to PCC – together with some other supporters of our UK Charity – also to give a practical training to our caregivers about the background and the best way of dealing with autistic children.

Likewise they did this year and the training was – as always – a great success. It's wonderful to have such experts as friends and supporters.



Sue Hatton with Joyce

After the training all caregivers proudly received their Certificate.

Our enormous "tree that saw it all"

It was definitely a dramatic event, the fall of the huge, beautiful and very shady tree at 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 seeing this tree, it's less monumental now, but unfortunately there is nothing we can do. Trees do come and go, but PCC will exist forever!

For more information and pictures about the falling of the tree use this link to the column in August's Albert's Corner: <http://www.operationhandinhand.nl/?p=5636>

New Summer hut + Toilet

Unfortunately the sudden fall and later removal of the big branches and the trunk of the tree has also caused serious damage to the central Summer hut (where also 4 dining tables of the children were standing) and to the Kofi Asare toilet in the centre of PCC. Both buildings had to be pulled down and after that we had to rebuild. Butthen you have something nice again!



Thanks to Baffo we are now having a splendid new Summer hut and a fine new toilet building for Kofi Asare and others. So at the end something good can arise from something negative!

Caregivers Day 2017

Last year we saw the beginning of a new tradition: we then organised the first ever PCC Caregivers Day, especially introduced to put the spotlight on our caregivers and to thank them for their commitment and good care for all PCC residents.



A big party on Caregivers Day

After the success in 2016 the 2nd Caregivers Day was organised on 9th of October and also this year it was a great success, a real feast that - not unimportant - was well appreciated by our caregivers! Without any doubt a very good action for the solidarity and good for the general atmosphere in PCC. So next year again!

The road to PCC

With good efforts of our Workshop boys and male caregivers the road to PCC at the Hospital compound has been (partly) equalised. This became necessary as during the rainy season this road eroded badly. Still it's not a highway, but much better than first.

Maa Afia and Mommy

Not only are we providing care to all our residents, sometimes we also give care to children coming from outside, e.g. when they need physiotherapy or we like to observe them for some time in order to give better advices to the parents.

At the moment examples are the sweet Mommy and the small Maa Afia.



Mommy on her daily visit to the physio

PCC Outreach programma

The PCC Outreach program in the wide Nkoranza District steadily continues. More and more villages are included, especially children with a disability living there with their parents.

We support the parents by organising Parent Support Groups, a kind of "fellow sufferers contact" and we group them together via activities that aim to make the parents and children not only socially stronger, but also economically.

One of the most successful Outreach programs is the Livelihood program, whereby young adult children with a disability, who are well supported by their parents, will receive some animals (e.g. 2 sheep, 2 goats or some rabbits) to offer them their own daily activity that makes them more inclusive in the village community (by making rounds to retrieve cassava peels etc.) and at the same time enabling them to contribute to the family income.



Emma Boyan offering 2 goats to parents

Kumasi Children's Home

Recently we were able to visit Kumasi Children's Home.

Result: by the end of October 2 young boys with intellectual disabilities will be transferred from KCH to PCC! Good news indeed. We will keep you informed!

Sponsoring

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



Deborah

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 much for this 15th Newsletter. We hope you are fully updated again.

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

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

Cordial greetings on behalf of the PCC Board from everyone at PCC!

Albert van Galen
General director PCC – Hand in Hand

handinhandcommunity@gmail.com