



# Cerebral Palsy Africa

*Providing training for those who work with families living with children with neurodevelopmental disabilities in African countries*

**Newsletter CPA-NL nr. 1: July 2020**

Dear partners and friends of Cerebral Palsy Africa,

Fifteen years ago, some great people started a remarkable initiative: Cerebral Palsy Africa (CPA). The initiative came from Archie Hinchcliffe, a paediatric physiotherapist who lived for many years in Africa. She realised that children with Cerebral Palsy (CP) are a vulnerable group of children who, in general, hardly receive the attention they need. In order to make a change in the lives of these children and of their caregivers, she decided to start training (para-)professionals in the field of rehabilitation. It was obvious to her that in order to make a lasting difference, the main objective of CPA had to focus on capacity building of key people in the field, providing support to children with CP. CPA was developed and supported by many volunteers during the last 15 years. Jean Westmacott became the driving force behind the training and the promotion of low-cost assistive devices, with a model called APT: Appropriate Paper Technology.

Time has passed since and both founders realised that the moment has come to hand-over the foundation to other committed people. The Scottish Board decided to ask Enablement, a Dutch consultancy group with 35 year of experience in the field of Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR), to facilitate the formation of a Dutch NGO that would continue the work done by CPA for so many years. This process was started late 2019, with activities taken over by a new Board as of December '19; CPA-NL was formally registered in March '20.

We are proud and committed to carry on the legacy of the founders. For more information please visit our website: [www.cerebralpalsyafrika.eu](http://www.cerebralpalsyafrika.eu)

The past few months were used to learn from the founders and to get in touch with CPA partner organisations in Africa. They were invited to send a Concept Note for future support; an Advisory Board was involved in making a preliminary selection. As a start we decided to focus on strengthening existing programs in Malawi and Ethiopia; for next year, options from Ghana, Zambia, Uganda and Kenya will be (re-)considered.

Funds are needed to support these programmes. Donors require value for money. You as well? Rest assured. Results from this work are clear proof of concrete changes in Quality of Life. Being able to sit instead of laying on a dusty floor. More self-confidence because parents understand better. Communication skills improved. Better feeding, less malnourishment, less suffering, less suffocating. Better coping for parents. Better understanding from neighbours. No cure, some problems remaining, but more hope and a better life, no matter how small the progress.

It would be great if you could honour the good work done through a new donation (for Bank details: see below). By doing this, you would make a concrete re-start for CPA possible. If you're interested, please send a short email to the CPA secretary indicating so and we will make sure to keep you updated in regular Newsletters.

Further, we requested Archie to write a special farewell letter, the final words are respectfully for her.

Kees van den Broek, Executive Secretary

Huib Cornielje, Chair



*Dear All.*

*For many years now you have been faithfully supporting Cerebral Palsy Africa's work and I, and all at CPA, have been so encouraged by your generosity.*

*The time has now come though that Jean Westmacott (my co-founder) and I need to retire, and we were casting about seeking ways for the charity to continue. We finally approached two people from the Netherlands who were interested in our way of providing training for those working in African countries to provide rehabilitation services to children with Cerebral Palsy.*

*Kees Van Den Broek and Huib Cornielje have worked for many years with children with disabilities, including Cerebral Palsy. Kees is the recently retired Executive Director of the 'Liliane Foundation', an international development organisation on Inclusion from the Netherlands, supporting families with children with disabilities worldwide. Huib, through his organisation 'Enablement', trains CBR workers in many parts of the world and has developed much innovative teaching material to support his teaching.*

*Kees and Huib realise the effectiveness of CPA's approach of training therapists, CBR workers and teachers to understand Cerebral Palsy, and work in partnership with families to help the children learn to sit and stand and use their hands from an early age. They were also impressed with the wonders of our way of making chairs and standing frames from wastepaper and cardboard, and how this could enable CBR workers to offer families the means to place children in other positions besides lying on the floor.*

*Our work in Ghana funded by a two year grant from UK Aid through the Department of International Development (DfID) slowed down our plans to work with Kees and Huib, but we are now ready to hand over CPA to the new organisation, Cerebral Palsy Africa EU, they have established in the Netherlands. Huib is to be Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Kees, the Executive Secretary. We are confident that not only will they continue the work we have been doing but will be able to expand and develop it to a wider and more sustainable level. Please have a look at their website [www.cerebralpalsyafrika.EU](http://www.cerebralpalsyafrika.EU), which is still being developed but which faithfully connects the two organisations.*

*I hope very much that you will want to continue to support the new CPA as you have the old. We have every confidence that and Kees and Huib will carry our legacy to new heights and continue to train the therapists, CBR workers and teachers – these underpaid, undervalued, but totally committed operators who are passionately eager to learn so as to be able to help the many children with Cerebral Palsy in their communities.*

*I hope that you too will be willing to help them carry this legacy forward. With thanks to you for your support and warm greetings to all,*

*Archie*

**Support CPA in Malawi: [Campaign Farewell Archie & Jean:](#)**

**For donations from abroad:**

**Name of the Bank: RABO;**

**Address of the Bank:**

**Croeselaan 18 3521CB Utrecht – The Netherlands**

**BIC: RABO NL 2 U**

**IBAN: NL39 RABO 0354 0724 39**

**Name of the organization: St. Cerebral Palsy Africa**

**Address of the organization:**

**A. van Leeuwenhoekweg 38 A 16**

**2408AN Alphen aan den Rijn - The Netherlands**

**For donations from in the Netherlands:**

**Name of the Bank: RABO**

**Name of the organization: St. Cerebral Palsy Africa**

**IBAN: NL39 RABO 0354 0724 39**