

upendo / love

2024 - 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW





Living Room guest enjoying play therapy with staff

In this issue...

Letter from Juli	3
Meet Gladys, Chief Nursing Officer	6
Partner Story: Lean in Closer to the Heart of God	8
Expanding Our Reach	11
Living Room Music	12
Tumaini (Hope): 2024 Living Room Gala	14
Dear Living Room... A Note of Thanks	16
Asante Sana!	17

dear friends,

Over the past 16 years, Living Room’s work has grown in reach and scope, expanding to two campuses and welcoming thousands of patients and their families each year to receive quality, holistic healthcare. Our vision remains like a clarion: we are to be a community of compassion that honors life and offers hope. Loving our neighbors and neighborhood. Committed to justice, mercy, and humility.

I recently stood at the bedside of a patient while attending morning rounds with our team at Living Room’s Hospital in Eldoret. He was an older gentleman whose body was failing him. His devoted son sat quietly beside him. As I went to adjust the oxygen mask on his face, he was barely conscious, but whispered the word: “asante.” Thank you.

His gratitude, amid suffering, felt like a blessing of sorts that I received and tucked away to ponder within my heart. A reminder of the sacredness of this hard and important work we get to do.

We feel so privileged for all of the ways you accompany us at Living Room. Your partnership, through prayer and financial support, helps to make Living Room’s work possible. We are grateful.

May the stories and information gathered within these pages give you a glimpse into the loving work you are a part of at Living Room.

With love and thanks,

Juli Boit

Juli McGowan Boit
Founder/International Director





Together, we are Living Room

We are a global community working together to provide dignity and quality of life to people in Kenya through holistic care and education.

We offer holistic care to men, women and children which includes physical, psychosocial, and spiritual support.

Our Model:



VISION

To create a community of compassion that honors life and offers hope.



BELIEF

Every person is created in the image of God. More than treating a disease, we care for a person holistically.



MINISTRY

To extend quality physical, psychological, and spiritual care to patients and their families.



MISSION

To provide dignity and quality of life to people in Kenya affected by life-threatening illnesses through holistic care and education.





Meet Gladys

**Chief Nursing Officer,
Living Room Hospital, Eldoret**



My name is Gladys Cheruiyot, and I am currently the Chief Nursing Officer at Living Room Hospital in Eldoret. I have been in the nursing profession for 20+ years, starting my career as a nurse assistant while pursuing education in nursing at the University of the District of Columbia.

I worked in several healthcare systems in Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina before returning to Kenya in 2017. I have been a nurse at Living Room Hospital for three years and became the Chief Nursing Officer in November 2024.

My passion for patient care, staff development, and healthcare innovation has driven me to take on this role at Living Room, where I oversee nursing operations, patient safety, and quality improvement initiatives. I work closely with nursing teams, doctors and hospital leadership to implement best practices, enhance patient safety, and foster a positive work environment for our healthcare professionals.

It's an honor to contribute to the mission of Living Room Hospital and support our dedicated healthcare team in delivering compassionate, high-quality care to everyone regardless of economic status.

What motivates and inspires you to do your job?

I am motivated by the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on both patient care and the nursing profession. Knowing that the decisions I make can improve patient outcomes, enhance workplace culture, and support our dedicated nursing staff keeps me inspired every day.

I find great fulfillment in mentoring and empowering nurses, helping them grow in their careers while ensuring they have the resources and support needed to provide exceptional care. Seeing patients recover, families express gratitude, and teams seamlessly work together reinforce my passion for this field.

Healthcare is constantly evolving, and I am driven by the challenge of finding innovative ways to improve processes, enhance patient safety, and advocate for our nursing workforce. At the core of my motivation is the belief that every nurse has the power to make a difference, and I am honored to lead a team that does just that.

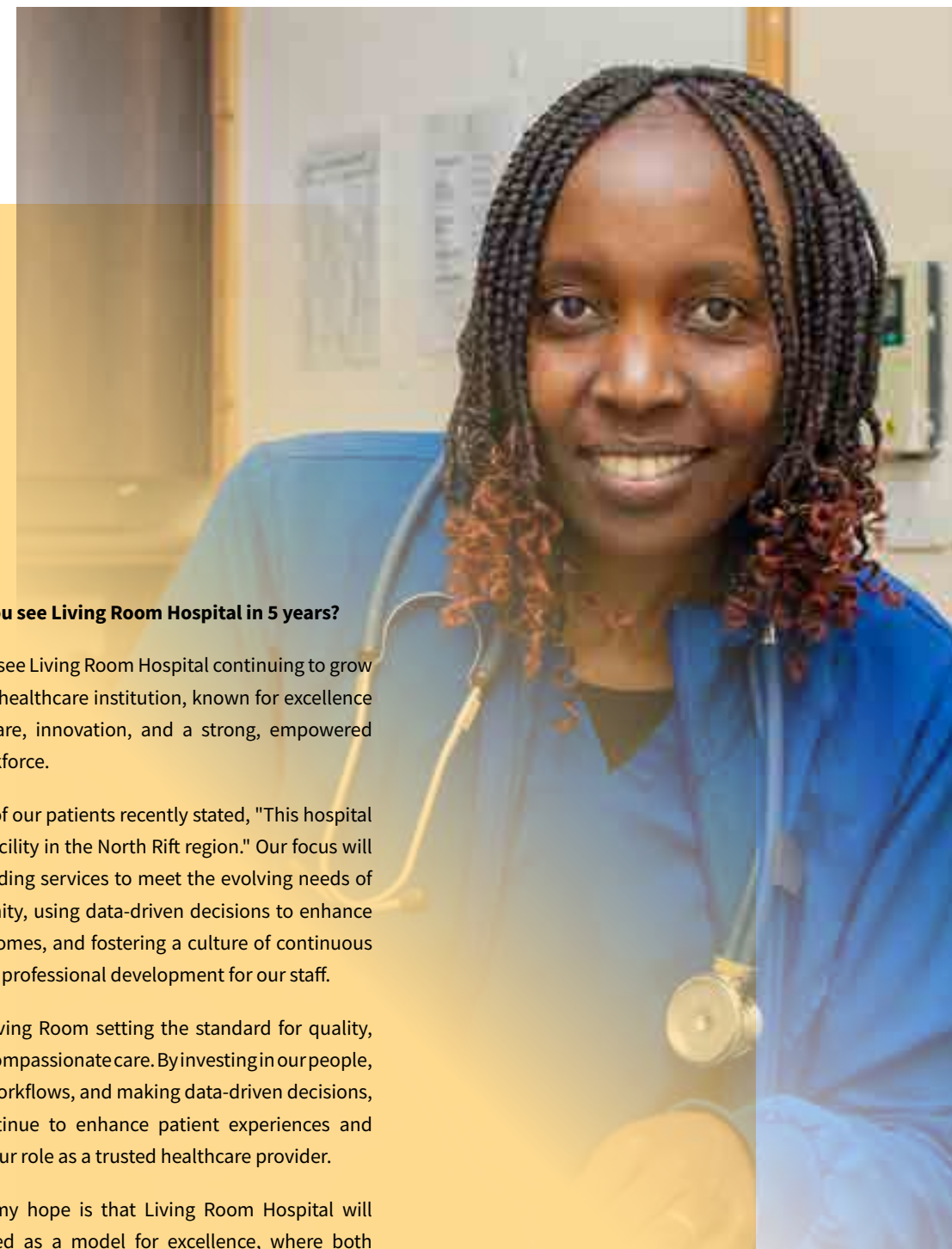
Where do you see Living Room Hospital in 5 years?

Personally, I see Living Room Hospital continuing to grow as a leading healthcare institution, known for excellence in patient care, innovation, and a strong, empowered nursing workforce.

Just as one of our patients recently stated, "This hospital is the best facility in the North Rift region." Our focus will be on expanding services to meet the evolving needs of our community, using data-driven decisions to enhance patient outcomes, and fostering a culture of continuous learning and professional development for our staff.

I envision Living Room setting the standard for quality, safety, and compassionate care. By investing in our people, improving workflows, and making data-driven decisions, we will continue to enhance patient experiences and strengthen our role as a trusted healthcare provider.

Ultimately, my hope is that Living Room Hospital will be recognized as a model for excellence, where both patients and staff feel valued and supported. A center of compassion where each life is honored.



Partner Story:

Lean in Closer to the Heart of God

SUSAN REEDY

CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY CHURCH MEMEBER

For twenty years my home church, Christian Assembly in Eagle Rock, California, has been supporting Juli McGowan Boit and Living Room International. Whenever Juli visits us, the church is packed as we soak up her stories of Flovia and Felix, the beginnings of Kimbilio Hospice, and the exciting news of Living Room Hospital's construction sites.

The stories are gripping, but seeing it with your own eyes is transformational.

I was blessed to serve with a team of eight women from Christian Assembly last October as we walked the red dirt roads of Chebaiywa to serve (and mostly be served) at Kimbilio Hospice. We arrived after a storm and survived a no-joke slip and slide drive to the hospice, emerging from the vehicle to the booming resonance of David Tarus' welcoming, "Karibu! Karibu!" Everyone was involved in the

welcome—young and old, able and feeble, those who stood erect and those who were pushed in chairs. There was song and dance and flowers, and of course chai. We planted an apple tree and walked among a breath-taking orchard of plantings done by other visitors and supporters of the Living Room.

The feeling of that particular moment will rest deep in my soul for the rest of my life. I logically understood that we were in a place where pain and suffering was plentiful. Where wailing from a funeral could burst forth at any moment. Yet I also had a tangible experience of being in a place where bird song filled the atmosphere, where foliage was lush and large and brilliant green. A place where laughter spilled out of a room full of never-ending laundry and joy lit up a room full of parked wheelchairs where spoons were placed gently into the mouths of those who could not feed themselves. I realized in that moment that I was about to spend a week weaving my way through one paradoxical encounter after another. So much hope cocooning



so much loss. So much life wrapped around so much death. So much beauty juxtaposed against so much need.

As an American, there are so many "needs" I take for granted. Indoor plumbing, refrigeration, well-stocked grocery stores, easy access to medical care. From this Western perspective, I tended toward a sense of pity for people living in remote areas around the globe, feeling like, "If only they were able to have what we have, they would be better off."

But after a week at Kimbilio, I found that it wasn't about the having that makes you better off. It was about the giving. We were here, in this remote place where the glory of God's creation is as poignant as the display of human suffering, and the sharing and caring and open-armed embrace of everyone who entered those hospice doors was shattering my Western ideas of "better off."

At Kimbilio, there's only one question to answer each and every day: "How do you show love in this situation?" Each encounter creates a new possibility for the soul to feel its worth. Whether I was getting a lesson in how to correctly say "ugali" while feeding Elizabeth—a beautiful, brilliant young woman with a body twisted into disuse by cerebral palsy, or laughing with little Boaz as we chased a bright yellow balloon across the resource room, my soul was growing and learning and leaning in a little closer to the heart of God.

Yes, there is need at Kimbilio. There is death. There is dying. There is suffering. There are needs for medical care and medical supplies and medical knowledge. But wrapped around those needs, like a beautiful cocoon, are the silken threads of honor, dignity and respect. And I am better off for having lived it.



Expanding Our Reach:

Living Room's New Outpatient Care Center

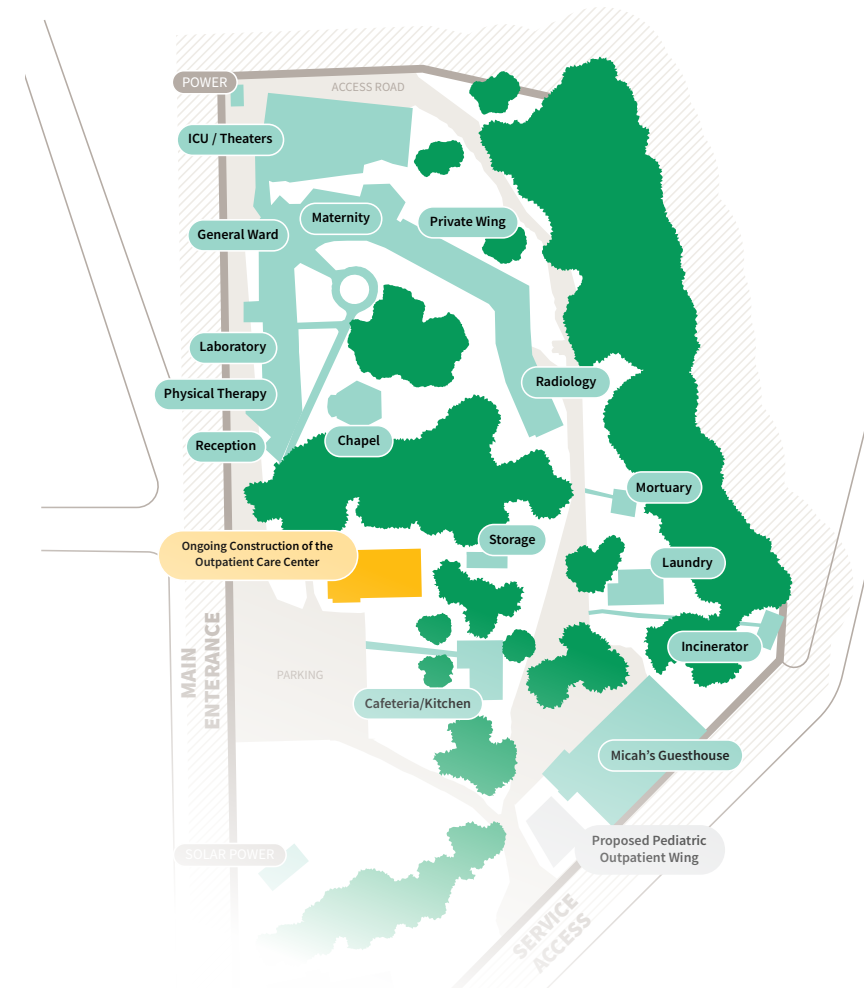
Imagine a place where children receive life-saving care, emergencies are met with compassion, and families find hope—all under one roof. This vision is becoming a reality in Eldoret as construction is underway at Living Room's new Outpatient Care Center.

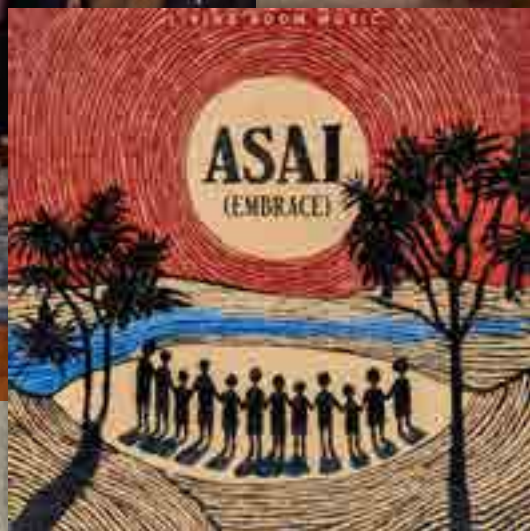
This four-story, 47,000 sq. ft. building will feature specialty clinics, an emergency department, a 32-bed pediatric inpatient unit, and an education center with a simulation lab. Our goal is to raise \$3 million for the construction and furnishing of the building, of which \$1.8 million has already been raised. We are ever thankful for your partnership, which helps us expand our reach and fulfill our vision of being a community of compassion that honors life and offers hope!

Join us as we continue to expand and offer the best care possible to our community. Learn more about our expansion projects at **www.livingroominternational.org**.



Progress on the new Living Room Hospital Outpatient Care Center.





Living Room Music is a powerful blend of courage, culture, and contrast, inspired by the compassionate work of Living Room. This unique musical journey bridges the gap between U.S. and Kenya, uniting diverse voices to create melodies that transcend

borders. Rooted in the African tradition where music is a lifeline, the project captures the essence of joy, pain, and resilience. Through its songs, it tells a story of hope and dignity, reflecting the presence of God in both suffering and celebration.

Listen on Spotify & Apple Music!

Learn more:

www.livingroommusic.co

Having been in the music industry—writing, recording, and producing for over 25 years—I can confidently say the Living Room Music Project is the most important project I’ve ever been part of. And I know I’m not alone in feeling that way. This project has deeply moved every musician involved, because at its core is something rare: worship music that gives voice to justice and mercy—two things so close to God’s heart but often absent from our songs. Living Room itself is a sacred, healing space, and this project became more of a faith adventure than a songwriting camp. We didn’t gather just to write songs—we came to listen for the song God was already singing.

What followed was extraordinary. Though we expected to release just five or six songs, we ended up with a full-length nine-song album, because every track carried weight and beauty we couldn’t ignore. Each song holds the tension and hope that defines Living Room: joy and mourning, Kenya and the U.S., healing and heartache. World-class, top-tier musicians volunteered their gifts simply because they believed in the story. Our dream is that these songs will be heard in churches across the U.S., Kenya, and beyond—sharing the Living Room’s story and inviting others to journey with us.



KANJII MBUGUA

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, LIVING ROOM MUSIC ALBUM

tumaini

(HOPE)

On December 5, 2024, the Living Room family came together from near and far to celebrate fifteen years of compassionate care. Highlights of the night included art, Living Room Music, stories and dreams of what's ahead. The event ushered in an exciting new year for Living Room including the vision for expanding our Outpatient Center project.





Kimbilio Hospice nurse, Rosie, caring for our guest.

Dear Living Room...

A NOTE FROM A FAMILY MEMBER

"Living Room indeed is living. My daughter, Kevina, came to Kimbilio Hospice as a 'write-off' after the doctors gave us six months for her to live. It has been two years and Kevina is still living because of the true love we found at Kimbilio Hospice. God bless the good work you are doing! God bless all who partner with Living Room so that this work continues. We pray for expansion to accommodate many more patients. You are true love in action."

Janet Murunga, Mother of Kevina



Asante Sana!

Thank You! I want to take this moment to say thank you very much to the family of Living Room all over the world. We thank you for what we accomplished together in 2024 as we served Kenyans in need of affordable and quality healthcare services. Through your partnership in prayer and in deed, we effectively served the thousands of patients and their families who walked through our gates. As the CEO, I want to say *asante sana* on their behalf – your support enabled the sick to feel relief from their pain and suffering; and to bring peace to families who experienced Living Room's love and care. It is an honor to walk together and support one another on this journey. Thank you, and God bless you.

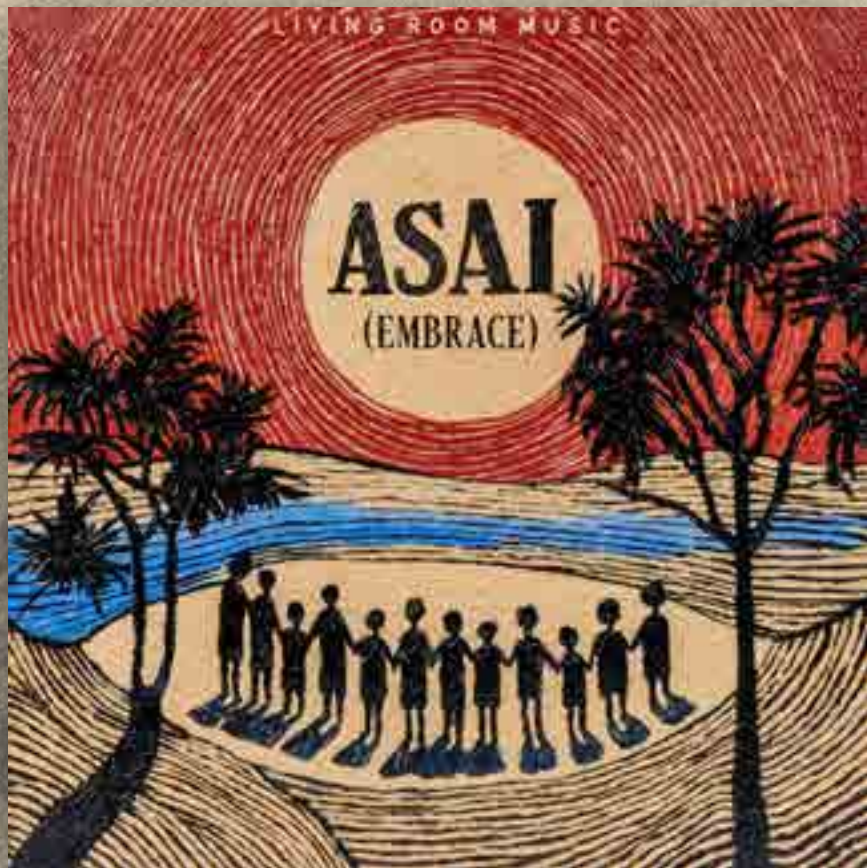
DAVID TARUS
LIVING ROOM CEO, KENYA



Living Room Music's New Album

Asai (*Embrace*)

Living Room Music is proud to announce the release of a deeply moving music album inspired by the stories of its patients and the organization's mission of compassionate care. This album is a global collaboration featuring renowned artists such as Pambio, Kanjii Mbugua, Rigga, Atemi, and Beka Dawn from Kenya, as well as James Paek, May Angeles from the US. Their collective voices bring a unique blend of musical influences, uniting cultures in a shared mission of love and dignity for the patients of Living Room.



Available June 20th on Spotify & Apple Music!

Learn more:

www.livingroommusic.co



The Living Room Organization

TEAM

Our team is unified by our commitment to honoring life and offering hope to our guests and their loved ones. We are comprised of caring individuals with a passion to see the vision of Living Room be achieved in every aspect of the organization.

BOARD

The Board of Directors is comprised of respected leaders from Kenya and the U.S. who, together, guide the strategic direction for the organization.

Peter Boit	Chairman	Pam Malloy	Board Member
Scott Kujath	Chairman	Eric Martin	Board Member
David Bixby	Board Member	Christian Mungai	Board Member
Janet Chesire	Board Member	Allison Tarus	Board Member
Blake Heal	Board Member	David Tarus	Living Room CEO
Isaiah Henry	Board Member	Juli Boit	International Dir., Ex-officio Member
Mary Herbert	Board Member	April Dichosa	U.S. Executive Dir., Ex-officio Member

CONTACT

E-mail: info@livingroominternational.org

U.S. Phone: +1 530 246 0693

U.S. Address: PO Box 992094, Redding, CA USA 96099-2094

Kenya Address: PO BOX 4053-30100, Eldoret, Kenya

C R E D I T S

Contributing Writers

*Juli Boit, Allison Tarus, Gladys Cheruiyot, Susan Reedy,
Kanjii Mbugua, David Tarus*

Photography Credit

*Bob Palermini, Jeremie Banembe,
Naome Kiptoo*

Art Direction & Design

Drew Shafer (drew-shafer.com)

U.S. PO Box 992094, Redding, CA 96099-2094

PO Box 4053-30100, Eldoret, Kenya

Living Room Ministries International is a 501(c)(3) religious, charitable, non-profit corporation based in the State of California.

Living Room International is a non-governmental organization with operations in Kenya.

Contributions are tax deductible in accordance with IRS rules and regulations.

Contributions to Living Room Ministries International are made with the understanding that LRMI has control and administration over the use of all the donated funds. All gifts are used as restricted. However in the unlikely event that a project becomes overfunded, your gift will be applied to a project where most needed.

