



Living Room  
INTERNATIONAL

# *upendo* / love

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW & FINANCIAL REPORT



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Dear Friends,

In Kenya, there is a long-standing tradition known as *harambee*, a Swahili word meaning, “all pull together.” In our village, *harambee* events are ways for the community to stand with one another and contribute as everyone is able, in both good and hard times.

I’ve been encouraged this year by how Living Room staff and supporters have continued to come together on behalf of our patients and their families. To help lighten the load. To make hard but important things possible, for the sake of love.

Living Room has always been about recognizing the value of each one of our patients and honoring them and their families through our service.

*More than treating a disease, we have the privilege of caring for people— physically, emotionally, and spiritually.*

In such complex and devastating ways, COVID-19 has affected everyone, everywhere; and yet, the stories and information gathered in these pages represent the loving and sacred work we have been able to provide each day.

With love & thanks,

**Juli McGowan Boit**  
*Founder/International Director*





**WE ARE LIVING ROOM**

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

We offer holistic care to men, women and children suffering from life-threatening illnesses, which includes pain and symptom management, nutrition, physical therapy, and psychological and spiritual support.

**Here's 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.



# 2020 Blessings



## JANUARY

### Manchester United Fans Volunteer

Local soccer fan club visited Kimbilio Hospice for one day to serve alongside our staff. They also donated much-needed food and supplies.

## MARCH

### KEHPCA PPE Donations

Kenya Hospices and Palliative Care Association offered vital support throughout the year through their PPE donations.



## MAY

### Food Distribution

In the wake of regional flooding and the global pandemic, our community faced a devastating food shortage. Living Room distributed food to over 800 families – mostly widows and orphans.



## JUNE

### Kimbilio Hospice Renovations

Completed major renovations of Kimbilio Hospice. The original layout was modified to create three new wards for men, women, and children, making the areas more open and spacious.



## AUGUST

### Improved Furnishings

Purchased new hospital beds and added ward curtains for privacy of our guests at Kimbilio Hospice.

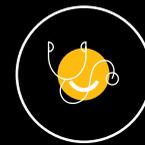


## WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO LOVE EVERY DAY?

ONE DAY Stories give you a glimpse into the power of our loving work which happens each day. We invite you to make every second count - to love with us. With your help, we will provide a refuge of honor and hope.

\$25 covers the cost of patient care for one day including staffing, medicine and food. We are asking 1,000 partners to give \$25 a month to ensure premium care for all of the guests who will come through our doors.

## HOW IT WORKS



Cover the cost of staff required to provide premium health care services.



Provide the necessary medicine and medical supplies needed for each guest.



Feed our guests nutritious meals every day.





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## ***Thank You!***

To our Living Room team and to healthcare heroes all around the world,

Thank you for the sacrifices you made in 2020 to care for the sick and vulnerable. During the most difficult of times, you showed up and gave your best, even when it felt like it was not enough.

What you did and who you are matters; we are grateful.



*The caregivers who have loved Chumba for the past 10 years at Kimbilio Hospice.*



The caregivers who have loved Chumba for the past 10 years at Kimbilio Hospice.

MERCY KALEHA

## National Heroes' Day Letter

October 20th marks Kenya's "National Heroes' Day" - a time to honor all Kenyans who contributed towards the struggle for Kenya's independence as well as our modern day heroes: the men and women who dedicate their lives to service. On this special day, we received an encouraging note from one of our own nurses, Mercy Kaleha.

*"In a special way, I celebrate you, Living Room International, for the love, care and comfort you give to all those who interact with you. Not only do you share with patients, but also the families, staff, friends and the whole community of Chebairwa. You have really touched our lives in different ways— more so during this time of pandemic. For the period I have been around, I have felt your love and care as I care for those who are in need of our services. Thank you very much for being there for us and today I celebrate you."*

It is our honor and privilege to serve one another every day.

**ANIKA ORTIZ**

FRIEND OF JANET, FRIEND OF LIVING ROOM

## Janet's Story

Janet Jesang...to know her is to be inspired by her.

*Janet's childhood was marred by cruel polio since infancy, causing her lower extremities to be severely constricted. Despite unimaginable suffering beginning at a young age, the joy of the Lord clearly shone through her radiant smile.*

Life changing surgery in 2002 altered the course of Janet's life as doctors meticulously performed soft tissue release on her hips and behind her knees. She emerged from surgery with casts plastered from her toes to hips; and somehow, her same radiant smile appeared on her pain-writhing face as she whispered to me, "Mungu yu mwema (God is good)." Through her 26 years of life, Janet has encountered more pain and

difficulty than most in their lifetime, yet in the midst she's always proclaimed this truth and found the secret of pure joy.

For the past 10 years, it has been Living Room's privilege to journey alongside Janet, who now walks with braces and crutches. Living Room provided crucial physical therapy services as well as educational scholarships. Janet not only completed high school, but also a tailoring program at a vocational training school. Upon completion, she was hired by Rivatex, the largest textile company in East and Central Africa; and has played a vital role during the Covid-19 pandemic in sewing face masks for the country of Kenya, including Living Room's staff and patients. Her tremendous work was highlighted in a magazine and on the news. Through insurmountable odds, she has overcome, and she continues to shout with an unwavering faith to a longing, broken world, "God is good."





Kimbilio Hospice guest, Ken, with caregiver, Cosmas.

## Dear Living Room...

A NOTE FROM A FAMILY MEMBER

*“Good evening, thank you so much for receiving our dad today and for all of the emotional assistance, understanding, and support that you gave me. I am retiring to bed tonight knowing that my father is in the best place where he should be and thinking about the great people you have at your centre. Asante sana sana sana. Mungu akubariki.*

*(Thank you very much. God bless you.)”*

**KEN KIPSANG**  
CURRENT LIVING ROOM GUEST

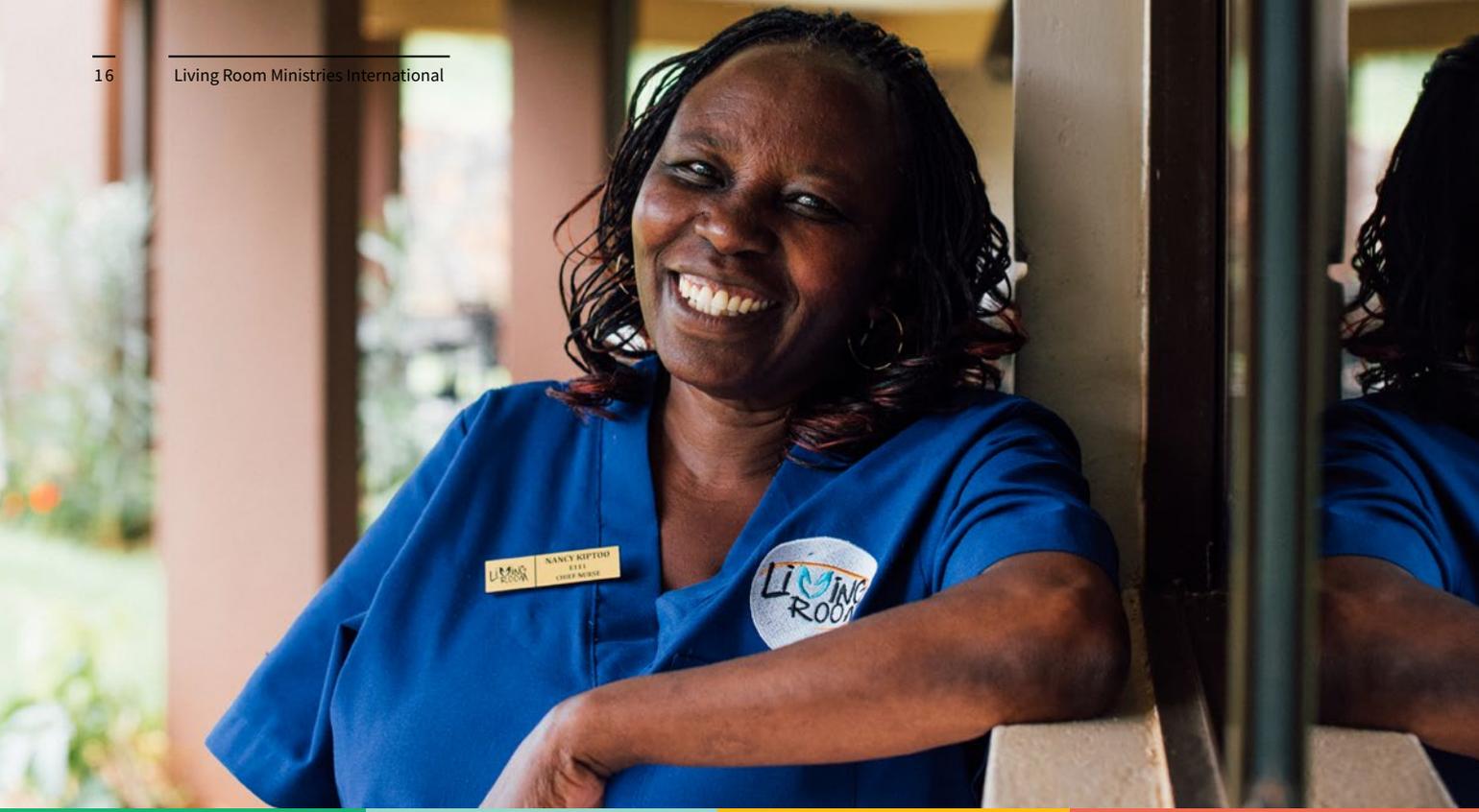
## God’s Love Dwells in this Place

My name is Kenneth Kipsang. I am a student in Taita Taveta University. I came to Kimbilio Hospice with worrying masses that filled my abdomen. My breathing was in trouble, and I had severe pain. When I got sick at university, I had no one to help me since my family seemed to not be concerned.

Kimbilio became my new home. The nurses on duty during my admission day helped me feel relaxed and develop some hope in life. I was praying for just a week to live. I had no money for chemotherapy. No family to show me love. I wasn’t married or even dating anyone.

*At Kimbilio, I ended up having loving mothers at the hospice who ensured my mind was settled. It is where I first received the hug of a mom; their affection was more healing than the power of medication.*

I am grateful for Kimbilio Hospice and for all who help to make this work possible. What is happening at Kimbilio could easily be described as the kingdom of God. For those of us who get to experience it, we know God’s love dwells in this place.



# Meet Nancy Kiptoo

AN INTERVIEW WITH LIVING ROOM'S  
DIRECTOR OF NURSING

## Describe your role at Living Room Eldoret.

I have been a nurse for 37 years. My role at Living Room is to ensure patients and families receive excellent care and that there is good coordination of interdisciplinary teams to achieve that goal.

## How do you see patients and families impacted through Living Room's care?

Living Room's holistic approach of care has impacted patients in many ways. Families have stated that they

have peace knowing that their loved ones are being taken care of at Living Room Eldoret. Both patients and families have expressed a sense of belonging.

This sense of peace and belonging transcends even to the patients who have gone to be with the Lord; as evidenced by families inviting Living Room staff to their homes for thanksgiving or families coming back to visit the facility.

I would love to share a story about a patient we had the privilege of taking care of. Recently, we cared for a patient with Multiple Myeloma, who became stable and was discharged home (3-hour drive from our facility).

After a period at home, the patient's condition began to deteriorate. The family hired an ambulance to bring the patient to Living Room Eldoret. On the way to the facility, the patient's condition worsened, but the family refused to go to any other hospital along their 125-mile drive. Unfortunately, on arrival to Living Room, the patient passed away. We prayed and took a cup of tea together with the family. The family expressed their gratitude for the love, peace and serenity that Living Room provided during that difficult time.

**Throughout the world, this season surrounding COVID-19 has been filled with unprecedented challenges; in what ways have you witnessed the Living Room team adapt to meet the changing demands?**

COVID-19 brought about unforeseen challenges and obstacles to the healthcare world in general. Our Living Room staff were able to adapt to the challenge quickly and efficiently. Aside from our staff adhering to the Ministry of Health's guidelines, we also implemented safety precautions specifically related to COVID-19 in a facility environment. We limited exposure by reducing the number of visitors to the facility, screening those entering the facility including staff, isolating suspected cases, limiting staff caring for the confirmed and suspected cases and allowing rest at home for staff with flu-like symptoms. Confirmed critical cases had to be referred to hospitals with ICU's. These measures proved to curb the spread of the virus within our facility and we continue to adhere to them.

**What keeps you motivated and inspired?**

Taking care of people has been my passion and source of joy throughout my long nursing career. I am motivated and inspired by the sigh and look of relief that I see on the face of exhausted family members when I tell them, "Go home and sleep, we will take care of your loved one." I am also motivated by the smile I see on a patient's face when their excruciating pain is relieved.

**Where would you like to see Living Room in five years?**

In five years, I would like to see Living Room in new locations and having mobile clinics that will provide symptom relief to patients with chronic diseases who are unable to come to our hospital. I would like to see our home-based care expanded by providing transport for our caregivers to the patient's home and back. What we are noticing is that families are hesitant to take their loved ones home even when they are stable because they are not able to provide the kind of care provided at our hospital.



Living Room distributed food to over 800 families in our community.



# 2020

## ANNUAL REPORT

A quick glance at last year's financial report.



## 2019 Financial Overview

	2017	2018	2019	2020
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 2,103,800*	\$ 1,279,399*	\$ 1,063,502	\$ 1,278,620
PROGRAM SERVICES	\$ 595,164	\$ 664,849	\$ 1,147,127**	\$ 881,596
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 91,037	\$ 87,987	\$ 90,092	\$ 91,754
FUNDRAISING	\$ 26,465	\$ 36,160	\$ 43,336	\$ 44,878
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 712,666</b>	<b>\$ 788,996</b>	<b>\$ 1,280,555</b>	<b>\$ 1,018,228</b>

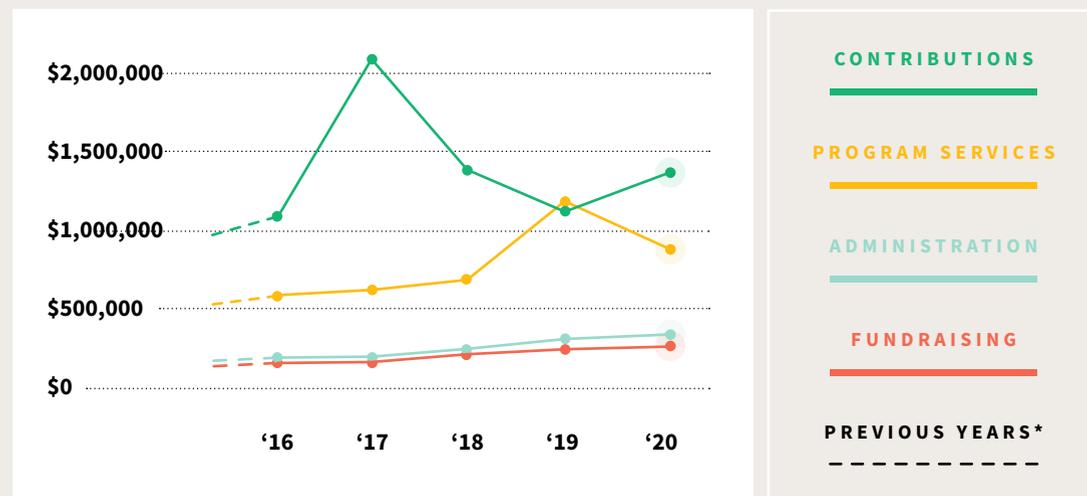
\* In 2017 & 2018, \$1.8 million was contributed towards the Eldoret Expansion Project.

\*\* Increase is due to opening of second hospice location in Eldoret.

## Income Generation

	2017	2018	2019	2020
FUNERAL HOME PROFIT	\$ 58,401	\$ 59,037	\$ 63,700	\$ 55,796
LIVING ROOM HOSPITAL - ELDORET FEE-BASED REVENUE	-	-	\$ 54,868	\$ 85,963

## Operations Growth



For more information on previous years, please visit our website for past publications [🔗](#)





# ***Asanteni Sana!***

(Thank you very much!)

**DAVID TARUS**  
LIVING ROOM CEO



On behalf of the people of Kenya, the families who brought their loved ones to be cared for, and the hundreds of patients who received love and care through Living Room International in 2020, we say thank you. In the midst of an incredibly challenging year, God was with us. We thank God for our staff who devoted themselves to serve our patients, whose resilience through the Covid-19 pandemic made it possible for the sick to access our services. Our team worked extremely hard and we thank God for keeping us all healthy.

I stand as LRI to thank our partners, both near and far. In an unprecedented year of uncertainty, you faithfully stood with us. You joined hands... to feed our neighbors when they lacked food, to provide medication and nutritious meals to our patients, to shelter mothers and their children undergoing chemotherapy treatments, to offer spiritual care for bereaved families, and to compensate our staff for their hard work. We had enough and never lacked. In fact, we were amazed that in such a challenging year, God enabled us to renovate Kimbilio Hospice and upgrade the furnishings with new hospital beds. Without a doubt, you walked with us an extra mile.

We invite you to keep walking with us. What we are doing is about the heart of Christ; and we cannot stop until the day we no longer have breath in us. Until then, we will continue serving the Lord by loving His people.

Asante sana na Mungu awabariki!

*(Thank you and may God bless you!)*

# The Living Room Organization



## FOLLOW ALONG ON SOCIAL



INSTAGRAM

[@LivingRoomInternational](https://www.instagram.com/LivingRoomInternational)



FACEBOOK

[facebook.com/livingroominternational](https://www.facebook.com/livingroominternational)

## 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.

David Poole	U.S. Chairman
Peter Boit	Kenya Chairman
David Bixby	U.S. Board
Janet Boit	Kenya Board
Keith England	U.S. Board
Blake Heal	U.S. Board
Mary Herbert	U.S. Board
Scott Kujath	U.S. Board
Pam Malloy	U.S. Board
Eric Martin	U.S. Board
Christian Mungai	U.S. Board
Allison Tarus	Kenya Board
David Tarus	Kenya Executive Director
Juli Boit	International Dir., Ex-officio Member
April Dichosa	U.S. Executive Director

## CONTACT

**E-mail:** [info@livingroominternational.org](mailto:info@livingroominternational.org)

**U.S. Phone:** +1 530 246 0693

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





## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

You have a voice.

Share our story and give others the opportunity to hear about the ways that Living Room's work is honoring life and offering hope to Kenyans in need of hospice and palliative care services.

Your giving counts.

Your financial partnership ensures the physical care and well-being for our guests. Living Room is committed to being transparent and accountable with the financial resources in which we are entrusted.

Your partnership is valued.

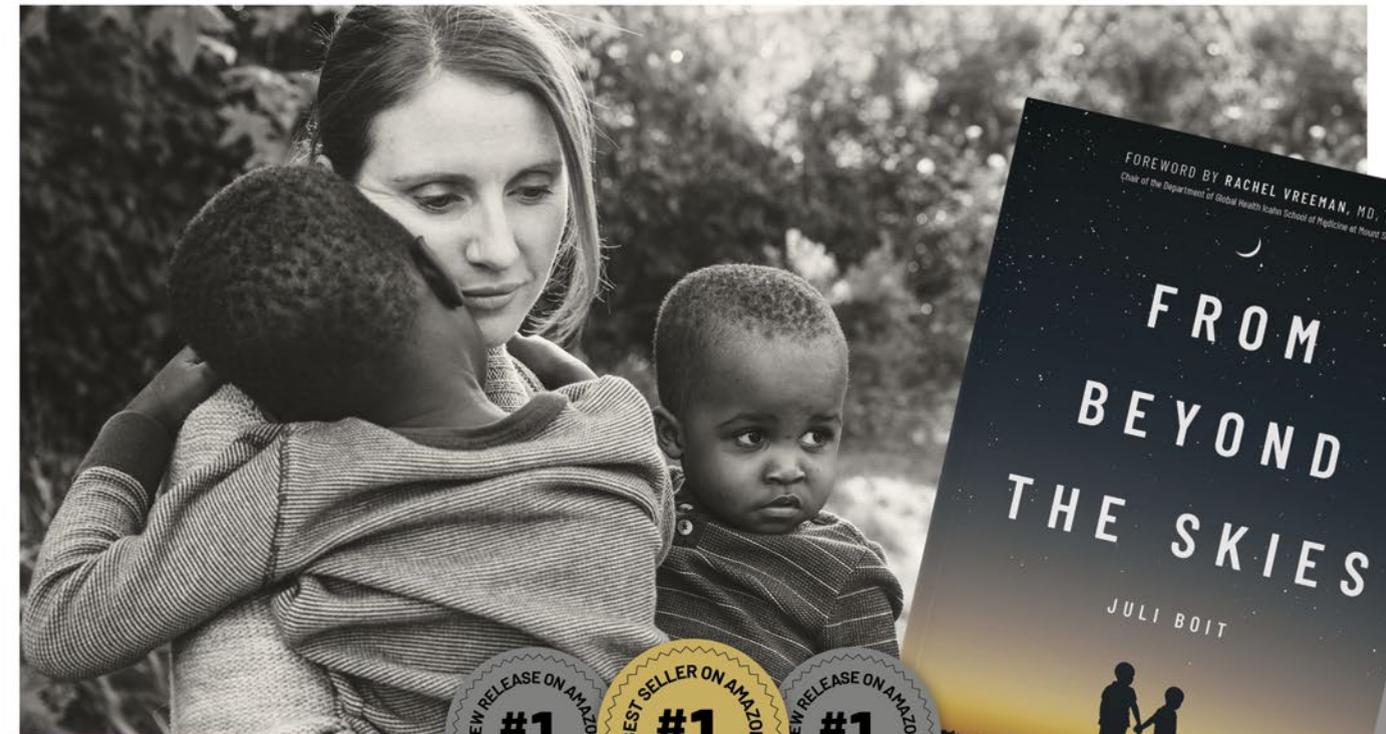
Come to Kenya and experience our loving work. Your knowledge, skills, and story add value to growing our cause and helping us serve better.

Your prayers are working.

Pray God's Kingdom will come and that His will be done as we seek to share the love of Christ with our neighbors.

LEARN MORE AT

[LIVINGROOMINTERNATIONAL.ORG/GIVE](https://livingroominternational.org/give)



## A REMARKABLE STORY OF LOVE, LOSS AND NEW LIFE FOUND IN THE DARK.

Juli Boit, Founder and International Director of Living Room, has written a book entitled *From Beyond the Skies* about the work of Living Room and her family's harrowing transplant journey with their two little boys. This is a remarkable story of love, courage, and new life found within the dark. It is an invitation to all who read it to do courageous things.

100% of the net proceeds from books sales fund Living Room International

Available for purchase September 28 from these retailers:



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE STORY OR PURCHASE THE BOOK, PLEASE VISIT:

[FROMBEYONDTHE SKIES.COM](https://frombeyondtheskies.com)

## C R E D I T S

### **Contributing Writers**

*Juli Boit, Allison Tarus, Anika Ortiz, David Tarus*

### **Photography Credit**

*Kimberly North, Jeremie Benembe, Drew Shafer*

### **Art Direction & Design**

*Drew Shafer (drew-shafer.com)*

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

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

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

**Kenya PO BOX 4053-30100, Eldoret**

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.

