

upendo / love

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW & FINANCIAL REPORT



In this issue...

Letter from Juli	3
2021 Blessings	6
One Day Campaign	9
What's Happening in 2022	10
Living Room Campus Updates	12
Tumani na Afya	14
Meet Florence	16
Letters from our Directors	18
Volunteer Testimonials	20





Dear Friends,

Let me begin by saying thank you for standing with us at Living Room in such generous ways in 2021!

When we entered the year, there was the hope in so many of us that with the flip of a calendar page, the agonizing hard of the global crisis of COVID-19 would magically resolve. Instead, the challenges lingered, changing in shape from day to day. It was more complex, and more divisive than I imagined it could possibly be.

At Living Room, amid chaotic times, we continued to adapt to the evolving needs of our patients and the larger communities we are privileged to serve.

Despite the unpredictable waves that Kenya experienced, our Living Room team bravely showed up each and every day and loved generously; giving their best even when it didn't always feel like it was enough.

Somehow, by the grace of God, there was enough room for both the disappointment of loss and the stubbornness to hope. We continued to dream of ways to better serve our beloved guests and their families.

In past editions of Upendo, we've primarily focused on the previous year's activities. However, there are such exciting developments occurring within Living Room that we decided to include them in this issue! We wanted you to know about them in real-time.

I pray the stories and information gathered in these pages will give you a glimpse into the sacred work you are a part of at Living Room.

With love & thanks,


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 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.





2021 *Blessings*



Kimbilio Hospice Garden expansion

Outdoor spaces have always been valued at Living Room; and the expanded garden at Kimbilio Hospice has added to the beauty and serenity of the place.

Citizen TV Documentary

Kimbilio Hospice was featured in a four-part documentary that was aired on national television in Kenya.



Kipkaren Chapel Dedication

Completed construction of chapel at Kimbilio Hospice in Kipkaren and celebrated with staff and guests.

Launch of Juli's book, *From Beyond the Skies*

The Living Room team excitedly gathered at Kimbilio Hospice to celebrate the launch of Juli Boit's book.



New Playground in Eldoret

Children's playgrounds were installed in Kipkaren and Eldoret, giving our little ones a beautiful space to play.



Thank you to our Living Room team and the heroes all around the world. Thank you for the sacrifices you made throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to care for the sick and vulnerable during the most difficult of times. You showed up and gave your best, even when you felt like it was not enough. What you did and who you are matters.

We are grateful.





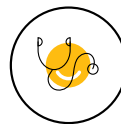
ONE DAY

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 are able to 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.

YOUR ONE DAY COMMITMENT WILL...



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.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2022

We are thrilled to share about Living Room's expanded services that will allow for a greater reach in our community! Our vision has always been to honor life and offer hope, and we are amazed by all of the practical ways we get to live this out each day.



MOTHER AND BABY UNIT

Constructed and opened a Mother and Baby Unit at Living Room Hospital in Eldoret. The unit includes a labor and delivery room, operating suite for emergency c-sections, newborn nursery, and recovery room. In Kenya, maternal mortality is a leading cause of death among women of child-bearing age, and one in every 26 infants dies before their first birthday. Living Room is committed to being part of changing these statistics. Our Mother and Baby Unit officially launched its services in May.

MICAH'S HOUSE

Construction is underway at Living Room Hospital in Eldoret of a 64-bed family care center for children and families who have traveled far distances to undergo cancer treatment at a nearby government hospital. Named after Micah 6:8 that says, *"God has shown us what is good and what is required. We are to do justly, to love mercy, and walk humbly with God."* Living Room will provide free housing, accommodation and transportation. Our hope is that our hospitality and love will make room for healing to be possible. The program is currently providing care within our existing space but expected to open in September.



PEDIATRIC SERVICES

Living Room Hospital in Eldoret is increasing its programs and specialty services for children in the community and hospital. We have a team of pediatricians committed to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of children. We want to be part of preventing disease, promoting wellness and treating sickness.

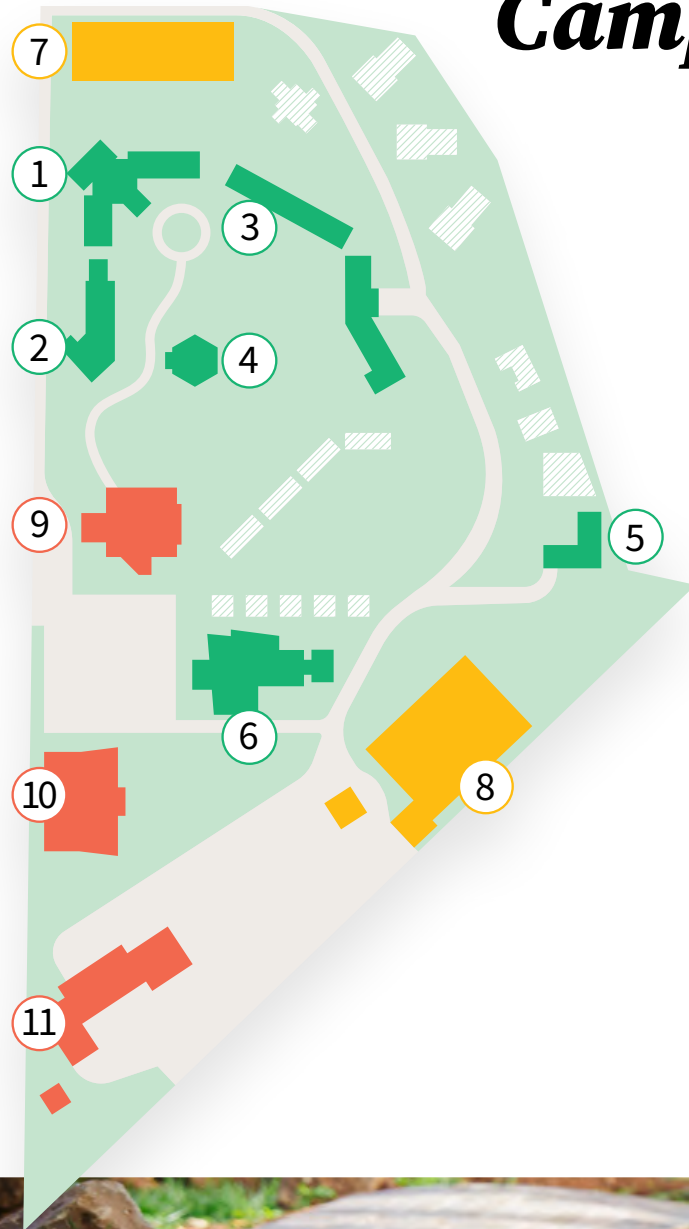
MAKING EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

Living Room's Kimbilio Hospice in Kipkaren partnered with Brook of Faith Academy to create a barrier-free, wheelchair-accessible school for children with physical disabilities. This dream started through our 12-year-old guest, Brighton, whose spinal cord injury left him paralyzed from the waist down. When he was ready to be discharged from Kimbilio, Brighton's desire to receive a quality education moved us to action. We pray this will open the door for others, like Brighton, to also access their right to an education.

OPERATING ROOM & INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

Living Room Hospital in Eldoret is constructing two surgical suites and an intensive care unit. Construction is expected to be completed in **September.**

LIVING ROOM HOSPITAL

Campus Updates**NEW & EXISTING**

- ① Inpatient Services
- ② Outpatient Services
- ③ Maternity Unit (*Opened May 2022*)
- ④ Chapel
- ⑤ Laundry Service
- ⑥ Kitchen / Cafeteria

OPENING SOON

- ⑦ Operating Room / ICU
(*Opening in Sept '22*)
- ⑧ Family Care Center
(*Opening in Sept '22*)

FUTURE PROJECTS

- ⑨ Outpatient Services
- ⑩ Education Center
- ⑪ Funeral Home

TO BE DETERMINED







ALLISON TARUS

Tumaini na Afya

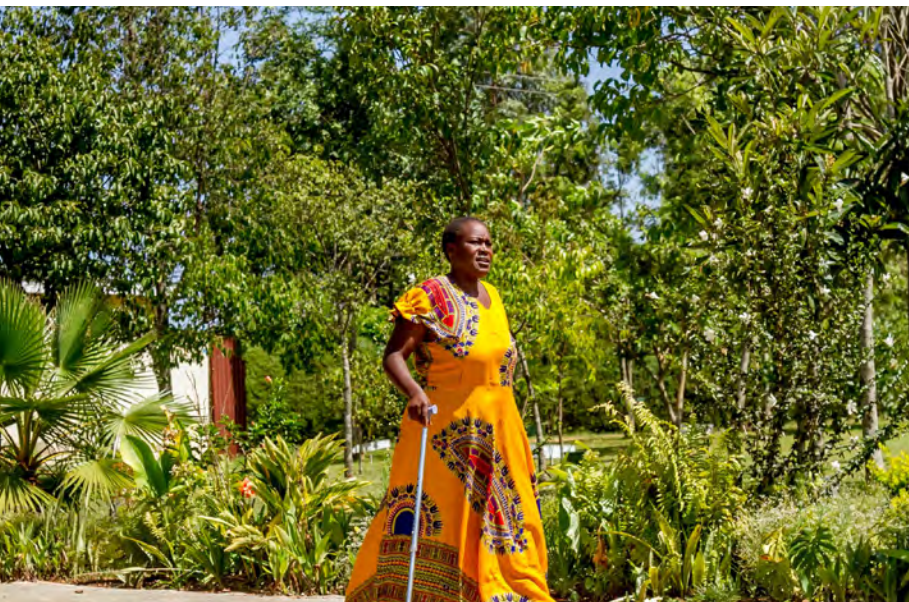
(Hope & Health)

Ruth's radiant smile is a result of a gift she recently received from Living Room – a new prosthetic leg. Ruth has no memory of the accident that occurred when she was only nine-months old. The story was told that she was crawling on the dirt floor of the mud-walled, grass-thatched kitchen where her mother used to use the traditional three stones and firewood to cook. Ruth's leg entered the fire without her deaf mother hearing her screams. An aunt heard and rushed to save her. Ruth's entire leg was badly burned; and though treated, it became contracted and never healed properly. At the age of 12, Ruth's leg was amputated; two years later, she received a prosthetic leg – one of her best childhood memories.

Living Room's Tumaini na Afya (Hope & Health) outreach team met Ruth in 2020 through a neighbor who encouraged her to come to Kimbilio Hospice for physical therapy services. At the time, Ruth was in great pain. She had been using that same prosthetic leg for 23 years. With great love and care, our team found a way to get Ruth a new leg that fit her properly. When asked: "How has Living Room impacted your life?" she quickly responds:

"I can now walk without pain.

Asante kabisa! Thank you very much!"





Meet Florence

AN INTERVIEW WITH LIVING ROOM'S PROGRAM COORDINATOR IN SOCIAL SERVICES

Describe your role at Living Room Eldoret...

I am a Social Worker at Living Room Hospital in Eldoret. I have been a part of the Living Room team for 10 years, originally at Kimbilio Hospice and now in Eldoret since 2019. I am the Program Coordinator for our accommodation services for children and parents who have traveled far distances for their cancer treatment and need a place to stay. I, along with my team, ensure the children are well taken care of. Right now, we have capacity for 15 children plus a parent in the hospital, but we look forward to the new building that is currently being constructed that will allow for us to care for even more children and families.

What impact do you see on patients and their families who come to Living Room for accommodation?

Since we started providing accommodation services for children at Living Room, we have welcomed kids from all over the country of Kenya. Parents and children have been able to be cared for with food and a safe, clean bed to sleep in, relieving the heavy burden of finding and affording a place to stay while their child is undergoing outpatient radiation therapy or chemotherapy.

(Continued)

One father, after his son completed 33 sessions of radiation therapy, said to me: “Thank you for taking us in, I have seen God. I wish all hospitals were like Living Room.”

I am grateful for the play therapy and holistic care our team provides that allows the children to be more than a patient.

What keeps you motivated and inspired to do your job?

I am motivated by how happy the children and their parents/guardians are after having stayed in a good, loving and comfortable environment. The little miracles we see every day at Living Room reminds me that God is still at work, working through us. As a parent, I know the value of a child’s smile. The peace parents have when their children get to stay at Living Room for accommodation is always a sigh of relief. I am always grateful to God for the provisions. I am honored to be able to walk the journey of treatment with the guests and their families, reassuring them through our presence and support.

Where do you see Living Room Hospital in 5 years?

In the next 5 years, Living Room Hospital will have touched so many lives. We will have stories from the whole of Kenya of children who survived their illness, in part because of the love and support we were able to provide. I envision that Living Room Hospital will be a center specializing in Child Life Services, both in the care we give to children but also training others. We will have shared the love of Christ through our actions with so many children and their families.



Friends of Living Room,

As we reflect on the journey Living Room walked in 2021, we must stop and take a moment to say thank you. Thank you to Living Room's staff of 100+ Kenyans who went out of their way, day and night, to love and care for our patients as well as the clients we serve in the community. Thank you to our friends, our financial and prayer partners, and all those who care for us – for the ways you stood with us throughout yet another tumultuous year, enabling our vision to be accomplished. May the Lord bless you as we journey together again in the year 2022.

Asante sana na Mungu awabariki!

(Thank you and may God bless you)!

David Tarus

Living Room CEO - Kenya





Living Room Family,

As I reflect on the timeline of Living Room, I cannot help but stand in awe of the ways God continues to move. Every time. In each season, He compels us to dream big in our mission to continue to love and serve those who are most vulnerable. Living Room continues to grow and expand because God gives vision and strength. Yes, Lord! We are grateful you are at the helm.

April Dichosa

U.S. Executive Director

Volunteer Testimonials

“

I was incredibly inspired by the servanthood of the Living Room and overjoyed to see the lives changed through it! Although I ultimately came to serve, I was served so much knowledge, joy, and love through my experience in Kenya.”

Maci | *Short-term volunteer, OBU*

“

Serving in Kenya and at Kimbilio, both in the hospice and with home outreach, deeply impacted my life through reminding me that there are hard things in each of our lives; however, in Christ, we can do hard things with great joy. Each guest and family I encountered overflowed with joy, even when facing incredible hardship. They also demonstrated Christ’s love through encouragement and kindness consistently.”

Nichole | *Short-term volunteer, OBU*

“

I was deeply affected by one of our home visits on the first day of outreach. We visited an adolescent male, who was a paraplegic and had an ostomy and a ventriculoperitoneal shunt. I was stunned to see that his mother had been reusing the same ostomy bag for who knows how long. The bag itself was broken, and she stated she had had a very difficult time getting any more bags. I could tell she was taking good care of her son and doing the very best with what she had. It was a deep learning experience for me. I was so used to having resources at the ready in the US and this is not always the case in Kenya. It certainly wasn’t for this particular family. We were able to do ostomy care and change out the bag for this adolescent boy and were also able to supply the mother with several more bags. She was overjoyed! This experience really made me think about resources and waste and how many things are taken for granted in Western culture. This situation prompted me to think more deeply about stewardship of resources...a little can go a long way. And God can do much with our generosity.”

Megan | *Short-term volunteer, OBU*

“

One day on outreach we were walking back to the ambulance from the house we just visited. On our way back some neighbors of a lady called us over to come help her. We ended up getting to assess her, but more importantly we got to listen to her story, look at her family pictures, and pray with her.”

Emily | *Short-term volunteer, OBU*



TOGETHER, WE 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 transforming the lives of Kenyans in need of health-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







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.

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
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 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 Phone: +254 707 643662

Kenya Address: Kenya PO BOX 4053-30100, Eldoret

C R E D I T S

Contributing Writers

*Juli Boit, Allison Tarus, April Dichosa,
Florence Toroitich, David Tarus*

Photography Credit

Naome Kiptoo, Jeremie Banembe, 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.

