Dear Friends,

As we find ourselves in this global pandemic, I remember 11 years ago in the wake of the AIDS crisis in Kenya, there was much needless pain and unjust suffering all around. Love compelled us to respond by creating a hospice community built on the values of compassion and mercy.

Living Room’s work started in a one room clinic where we cared for and treated two HIV+ children. What we believed then is what still guides us today: every person is made in the image of God. More than treating a disease, we care for a person holistically.

I recently sat with Evans, a guest of Kimbilio Hospice, and listened as he shared this message with me:

“Oh the first day I arrived to Kimbilio Hospice, I was wheeled from the administration building on a walkway towards the hospice. I looked down to the floor as I crossed over the words below me. It said: ‘Honoring life.’ And when we reached the doors of the hospice, the message read: ‘Offering hope.’ This is what I needed, and it is what I have found in this place.”

In the pages which follow, you will find more stories of how Living Room’s work is honoring life and offering hope. Our wonderful team of 108 Kenyans daily shows up to give their best to our guests and their loved ones.

During these challenging times, we are grateful for all of the ways you have stood with us at Living Room and look forward to partnering together for years to come.

With love & thanks,

Juli McGowan Boit
Founder/International Director
WE ARE LIVING ROOM

We exist to 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.

We serve the need for palliative care in Western Kenya through two in-patient facilities, a regional funeral home and home-based care programs.

VISION
To create a community of compassion for Kenyans in need of hospice care.

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.

LIVINGROOMINTERNATIONAL.ORG
2019 Highlights

MARCH
Building Our Team
Living Room hired and trained 61 new staff members from 8000 applications received at Living Room International Hospital in Eldoret.

APRIL
Our First Patient
We welcomed our first patient at Living Room International Hospital in Eldoret.

AUGUST
Official Opening of LR Hospital
The Deputy President of Kenya, William Samoei Ruto, came to officially open Living Room International Hospital in Eldoret. It was a wonderful celebration.

DECEMBER
68,180 Patients and Family
In 2019, it was Living Room’s great privilege to have 68,180 encounters with palliative care patients and family members.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO LOVE EVERY DAY?
Over the next year, we want to share stories and 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 1000 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.

Visit ONE DAY Campaign webpage.
Emmanuel

LAUNCH A little boy, whose life and story matters, whose journey has been interwoven with ours at Living Room. We have the privilege of being a refuge for all of his beauty and brokenness. There is food and medicine. Hands to hold. Welcoming laps. There is space to play and heal, freedom to be a child.

Chumba

JANUARY Chumba is a bright light within our community. More than any labels related to a diagnosis or ability, Chumba's presence offers hope and peace.

Evans

FEBRUARY Evans survived a car accident in 2017 that left his legs paralyzed. He came to Kimbilio Hospice in desperate need of wound care. He lives 300 miles from Kimbilio, but in a time when he needed refuge, he found it.

JANE

MARCH In January of 2019, Jane, a widow and mother of 7 children, was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. After being discharged from another hospital, she and her daughter traveled 3 hours to reach Kimbilio Hospice where she received care for her wounds and medicine to ease her pain.

KIBET

APRIL After several misdiagnoses, David Kibet discovered he was HIV positive. Living Room walked with Kibet through the discovery of a local clinic that supplied him with medication and helped him regain strength and health.

FLOVIA

MAY A life that wouldn’t have been. A life that thrived because of an abundance of God’s grace and a willingness of those around her to try. A life that started a movement within a small community in Kenya to create a space that honors life and offers hope.

Visit ONE DAY Campaign webpage.
In a place where there is suffering and pain, it can be difficult to see goodness and life. We must be intentional about looking for beauty, listening for God’s voice, and sensing His peace.

At Kimbilio, we start our weeks with gathering together; staff and administration, patients and caregivers, children and elders are all part of the community. We sing, we listen to the Word spoken to us and over us, and we give thanks. It helps us to stop and notice. Afterwards, other gatherings happen. The cooks talk about what food must be ordered, drivers make schedules for patients that need to be taken to get an x-ray or supplies that must be picked up. The medical team meets to review patient cases and decide what is best for treatment. A family member might talk to the accountant to settle a payment. And the saws of the casket making business will start to buzz. There is life. There is movement. There is a daily motion, all moving towards the goal of making every life matter.

Do you hear the songs of mourners, and the clipping of flowering bushes, and the birds cawing and chirping in the trees? Do you smell the sizzling onions, the warm auburn varnish on wood, the soap on floors? Do you see the smiles of children swinging, a spreadsheet full of numbers accounting for food and salaries and medication, and clean bedsheets swaying in the breeze? These are signs of life that we must savor. We might miss them if we aren’t careful.

Take time to smell. Take time to look. Take time to listen. In the midst of the hard, there is so much beauty in the world.
Planting Seeds of Peace and Hope

At Kimbilio Hospice in Kipkaren, we plant trees and lots of them—every time a visitor arrives, in celebration of an event, or to remember and honor a loved one.

As the years pass, we watch the trees grow little by little. They are beginning to bear the beauty, shade, and fruit for which we had hoped. The act of planting a tree has great significance—sometimes, without us really knowing to what depth.

In 2018, we welcomed a team from Hillside Community Church—one of our partner churches from Southern California. As usual, our staff joyfully welcomed them with ribbon cutting, presenting bouquets of flowers and traditional singing. We proceeded to the garden for the team to plant a mango tree in remembrance of their visit. As we gathered around the hole, David Tarus (CEO, LRI Kenya) randomly called one of the team members, Michelle, to come forward and plant the tree. As she knelt down, she began to weep. None of us knew why Michelle was weeping. It may be surprising to describe the act of planting a tree as a sacred moment, but it definitely was.

The team leader whispered to David, “This is for Chloe,” whom we later learned was Michelle’s daughter who passed away two years ago from cancer. A few weeks after Michelle returned to the USA, she shared her thoughts with us:

“It may seem to so many that one day at a hospice couldn’t possibly be that big of a deal or that spending a few hours with a child would mean much, but after processing it this past week, I am beginning to understand just what God was showing me there.

It was at Living Room—almost two years after my daughter died, after feeling unseen for so long (even though I never doubted God’s love for me)–that God saw me! When asked about my experience in Kenya, my only stories I tell so far are of planting a tree and Job.

“So she called the LORD who spoke to her: The God Who Sees, for she said, ‘In this place, have I actually seen the One who sees me?’

Genesis 16:13

It was the first time in what seemed the loneliest months of my life that God opened the heavens and looked down and for just a short earthly time saw only me! I was given the most precious gift of planting a tree in honor of my precious Chloe; and then given the privilege of spending the day with a beautiful boy named Job. Thank you for giving me the opportunity.”

As Wangari Maathai (2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner from Kenya) eloquently said: “When we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace and seeds of hope.” Peace and hope were planted in Michelle’s life that day; and in a few years, the guests of Kimbilio Hospice will be eating the mangoes, which will have grown from those precious seeds.
Esther Wendy
FORMER GUEST

“When I arrived here, I could not walk on my own. I could not even turn myself. I was not able to use the bathroom on my own. I suffered terribly for 7 years with an unknown, humiliating, and shameful condition. I was greatly helped at Kimbilio. Here is where the real issue was discovered – a fistula from an unsafe delivery. Through Kimbilio, I was referred to another hospital for surgery. My blood level was so low. Kimbilio staff even donated blood for me. My life has changed a great deal. Now I have dignity. I feel like a normal woman now. I thank God for how far He has brought me. And I am so grateful to Kimbilio. I thank you so much for helping me.”
It has been such an honor for Christian Assembly to partner with Living Room International since the beginning. We have witnessed God’s hand over His people and His ministry over the past 11 years. They are truly a beloved community on whom God’s favor rests.

Last year, I visited Kenya with a team from Christian Assembly. This trip changed my life, as I had the privilege of entering into this ministry. I experienced God in both joy and sorrow. God’s love was so evident: in life and in death, in sickness and in health, in plenty and in need.

I shared a devotional with the Living Room staff on Joshua 4 about the twelve stones of remembrance. We took time to remember all that God has done in and through the people of Living Room International. Story after story was shared that left us in wonder of God’s hand over this ministry. We remembered God’s initial calling to respond to the cries of people needing help. We remembered his provision for Kimbilio Hospice in Kipkaren. We remembered his healing work in Ryan and Geoffrey Boit’s lives. We remembered how God called Christian Assembly to provide for the Living Room Hospital in Eldoret. We remembered the stories of so many guests of the Living Room, who will not be forgotten.

Remembering God’s faithfulness fueled the faith of our prayers, as we interceded together for the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) accreditation for the Living Room Hospital in Eldoret. We knew that God had brought us this far and will continue to open doors so that more people can have access to health care and experience the love of Jesus. When our church later heard the news of the accreditation, we were so amazed at God’s faithfulness once again.

This has been so much more than a partnership; this is family. God has given us a deep love for one another. We have learned so much about community and family through Living Room International. Their interdependence, their resilience to bear one another’s burdens, their authentic love, and their compassion has transformed us. We build on God’s faithfulness and continue to pray with hopefulness for what God will continue to do for years ahead.
A quick glance at last year’s financial report.
## 2019 Financial Overview

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<th>2016</th>
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<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
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*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

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<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<td><strong>FUNERAL HOME PROFIT</strong></td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>$54,868</td>
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## Operations Growth

For more information on previous years, please view the 2018 Year in Review issue.
I have been working at Kimbilio Hospice as a volunteer for 11 months now. I have previously worked in busy public hospitals in Kenya where I see patients with all types of conditions and from different walks of life. Kimbilio has offered me a very exceptional experience; to see the heart behind serving those who are considered less privileged. I struggled long after giving my life to Jesus to see how I would give myself for the privilege of those I serve and not just to make a living. Kimbilio, for me, is a place that God uses to show me that what I have heard from Him is possible and is being done by others.

Kimbilio, for me, is a place that God uses to show me that what I have heard from Him is possible and is being done by others.

My heart has been broken, warmed, stretched and most importantly, it has grown in the last 11 months. I truly look forward to Thursdays when I make my two hour trip to Chebaiya Village. I remember vividly my second week at Kimbilio when we received one frail Victor; just about four years of age with a meager weight of 8 1/2 pounds. He was sad, weak, easily irritable and couldn’t communicate. His little body looked like it would crash whenever he would cough. I remember praying to God and inquiring whether we should start him on tuberculosis medications of which He said yes. It has been a most lovely journey; seeing him run, talk, love and accept love. God is good.

It is not just the expertise of the people in Kimbilio that makes it so attractive for me to work together (though this is equally important), it is also the genuine care and love that causes them to go beyond themselves. This is truly what Christ did for us and what He desires of us.
Living Room’s work is sacred and important, and nearly everything about it is also hard. Emotionally, physically, spiritually, economically, and sometimes even politically. We have continued to be faithful in the hard. When we have faced roadblocks, at times we have had to change course; and at times, God has wanted us to persevere. Resilient faith has seen us through and allowed us to always come through stronger.

I want to take this time to thank our staff for their hard work in loving and caring for our guests. For their faith that is resilient and strong and has led us to keep moving in this journey. Our experience has been that it is easier to be resilient as a team; and I am grateful for the strong team God has given Living Room, both in Kenya and those who cheer us on from various countries throughout the world. Throughout our journey, Galatians 6:9 has been an encouragement to us – a reminder to keep going, to keep being faithful: “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Asanteni Sana!
(Thank you very much!)

DAVID TARUS
LIVING ROOM CEO

Resilient faith has seen us through and allowed us to always come through stronger.
“I am a widow. My husband, Japheth Lowino, was cared for at Kimbilio Hospice for one year. The first time I brought him here, I was received warmly. I was not discriminated against. The warm welcome relieved the pain that was in my heart. Kimbilio became my husband’s home. He loved this place more than home. If I took him home for a visit, he would ask me to bring him back here – to his children – that’s what he called this place. He stayed here until he passed. I accepted it, though I still mourn him. He was indeed my beloved. We loved each other so much. I saw love in this place. Kimbilio made my husband live a little longer. Be blessed for all that you are doing here. May God help Kimbilio and those serving here.”
You have a voice.
Share our story and give others the opportunity to hear about the ways that Living Room’s work is transforming healthcare in East Africa.

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.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

LEARN MORE AT LIVINGROOMINTERNATIONAL.ORG/GIVE

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FACEBOOK
facebook.com/livingroominternational
The only thing that matters is faith expressing itself in love.

GALATIANS 5:6

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CREDITS

Contributing Writers
Juli Boit, Allison Tarus, Kristen Albright, David Tarus, Esther Wanjama, Scott Quay

Photography Credit
APU University Relations, Kimberly North, Andy Kennelly, 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

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