



Living Room  
INTERNATIONAL

# *upendo* / love

2019 YEAR IN REVIEW & FINANCIAL REPORT



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### DIGITAL ISSUE

This year's issue features videos and website hyperlinks.  
Click on these icons to access the digital content.



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:

*“On 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.

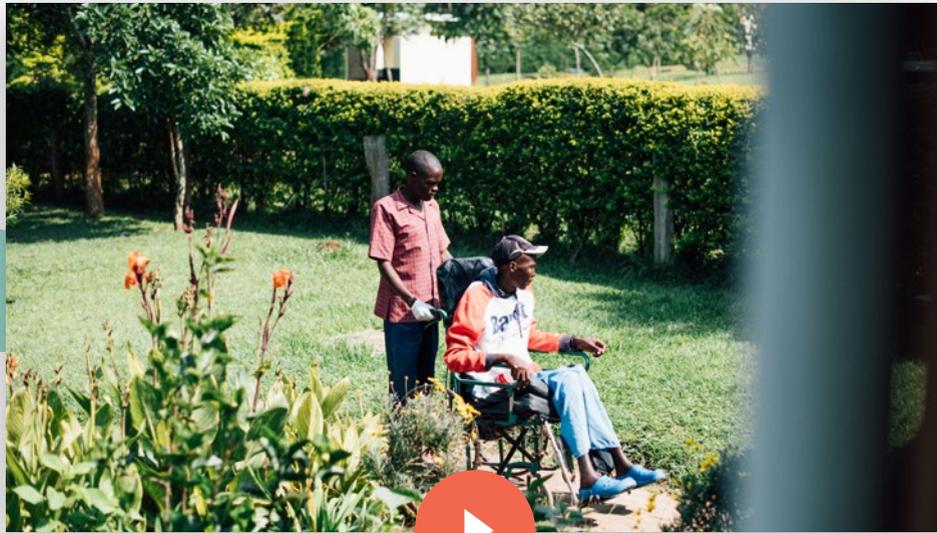
During these challenging times, we are grateful for all of the ways you have stood with us at Living Room and look forward to partnering together for years to come.

With love & thanks,

*Juli Boit*

**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.



# 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 Rutto, 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.

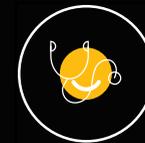


## WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO LOVE EVERY DAY?

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.



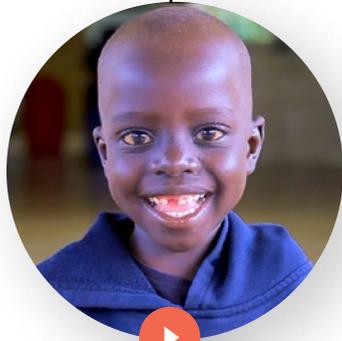
Feed our guests nutritious meals every day.

Visit [ONE DAY Campaign webpage.](#)



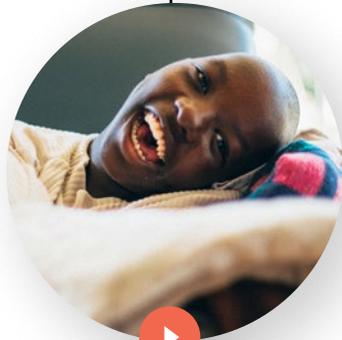


## ONE DAY STORIES



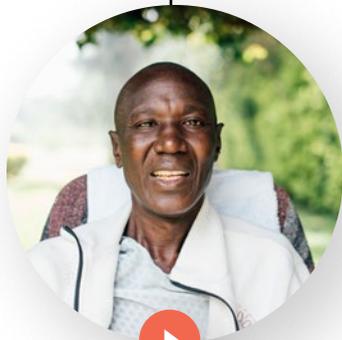
### Emmanuel

**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.



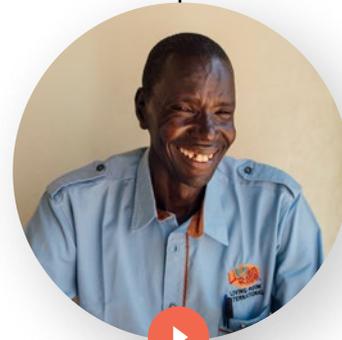
### Evans

**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.](#)





KRISTIN ALBRIGHT

## Life Around Kimbilio

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.

ALLISON TARUS

## 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 – at times, 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.



SPOTLIGHT



## ***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.”*



# 2020 GOALS

## **RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS IN KENYA**

Living Room is working within the community and partnering with the Ministry of Health to strengthen care available for people affected by COVID-19. We are committed to caring for our neighbors and will continue to respond to the needs that arise due to the current pandemic, food insecurity, and widespread flooding.

## **KIMBILIO HOSPICE EXPANSION PROJECT**

The Kimbilio Hospice building is 10 years old and in need of major renovations. Our 26 beds are full each and every day with men, women, and children in need of loving care. We have begun to rework spaces to look more like our general wards in the new Eldoret site as we believe this will allow us to better serve our patients and create an improved working environment for our staff overtime. In addition to the building changes, we are dreaming to expand the garden area, add a children’s playground and a chapel.

## **ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS**

Living Room is working to develop and implement an electronic medical record system to strengthen our services, connecting its two campuses.

## **ELDORET PARTNERSHIP**

We are creating a partnership with MTRH (main government hospital in Eldoret) to care for children and families going through cancer treatment. At the beginning of 2020, the administration of the pediatric oncology program reached out to Living Room. They expressed that on average, they have 140+ people (71 children + their moms) sharing 35 single beds in the hospital wards; and are overwhelmed. We are working together to assess the needs and respond in the most helpful and caring way. Even though the partnership isn’t official yet, the hospital is already sending children and their parents to be cared for at our Eldoret site.



# Kingdom Partners

**SCOTT QUAY**

MISSIONS PASTOR, CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY  
LOS ANGELES, CA

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.

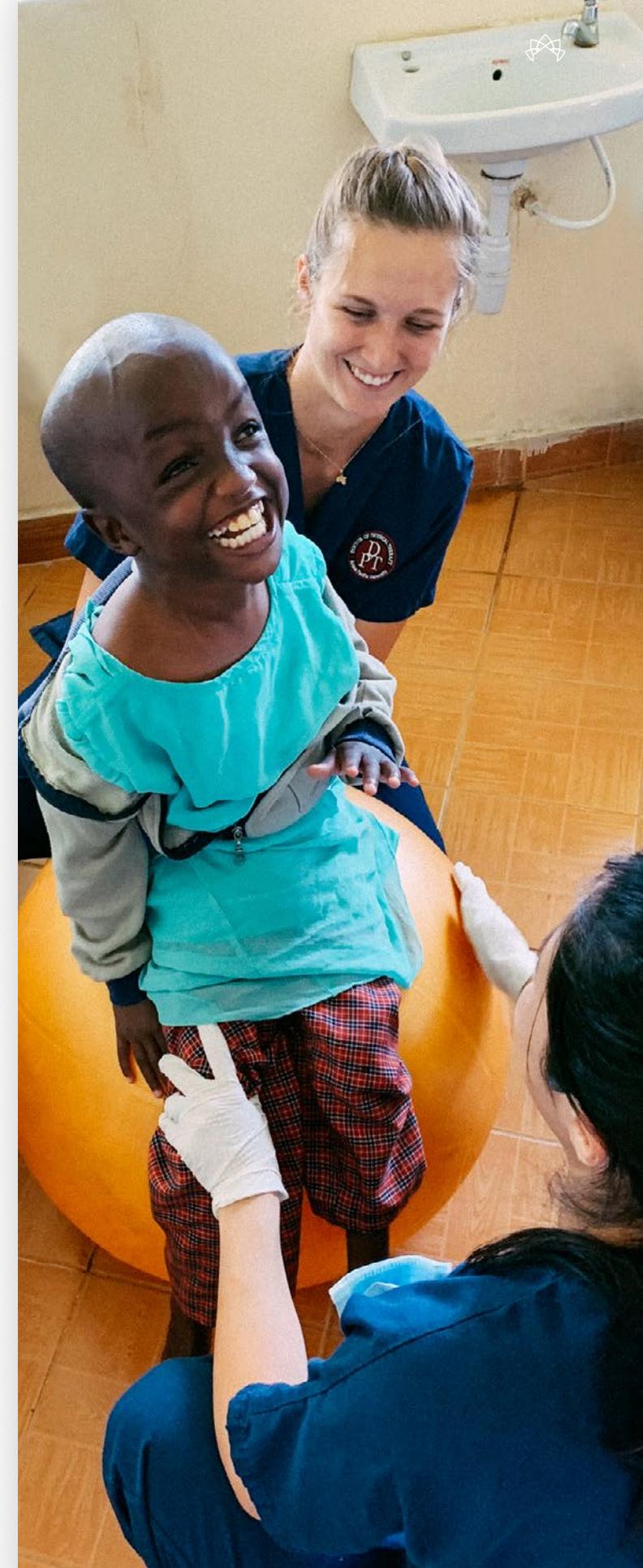
Last year, I visited Kenya with a team from Christian Assembly. This trip changed my life, as I had the privilege of entering into this ministry. I experienced God in both joy and sorrow. God's love was so evident: in life and in death, in sickness and in health, in plenty and in need.

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.





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## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

A quick glance at last year's financial report.



## 2019 Financial Overview

	2016	2017	2018	2019
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 1,053,162	\$ 2,103,800*	\$ 1,279,399*	\$1,063,502
PROGRAM SERVICES	\$ 554,305	\$ 595,164	\$ 664,849	\$1,147,127**
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 80,255	\$ 91,037	\$ 87,987	\$90,092
FUNDRAISING	\$ 25,318	\$ 26,465	\$ 36,160	\$43,336
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 659,878</b>	<b>\$ 712,666</b>	<b>\$ 788,996</b>	<b>\$ 1,280,555</b>

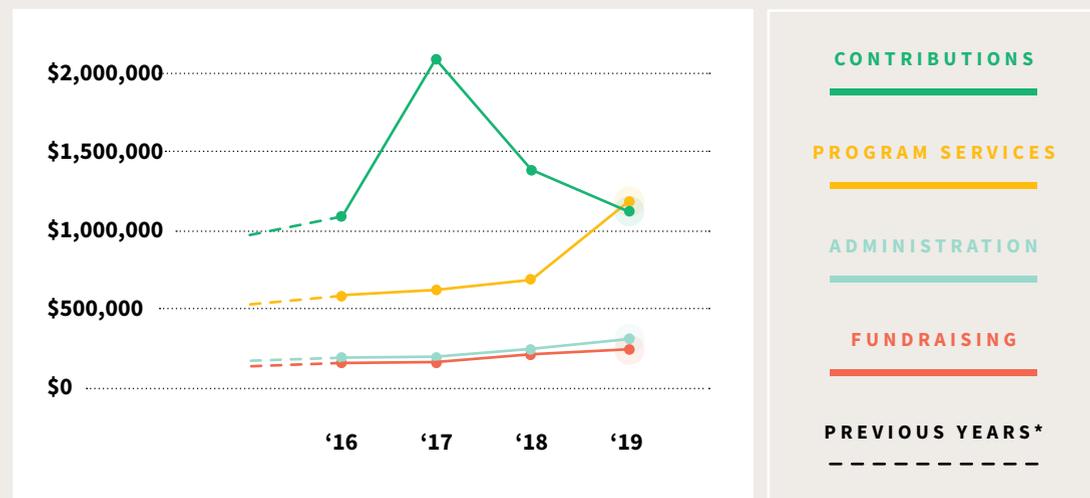
\* In 2017 & 2018, \$1.8 million was contributed towards the Eldoret Expansion Project.

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

## Income Generation

	2016	2017	2018	2019
FUNERAL HOME PROFIT	\$ 47,868	\$ 58,401	\$ 59,037	\$63,700
LIVING ROOM HOSPITAL - ELDORET FEE-BASED REVENUE	-	-	-	\$54,868

## Operations Growth



For more information on previous years, please view the 2018 Year in Review issue. [§](#)





# What is Possible

**ESTHER WANJAMA**

KENYAN PEDIATRICIAN

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. I met people with the perspective of God regarding those who are not only ill, but those who are rejected in society.



**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 Chebaiywa 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<sup>1/2</sup> 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.





# *Asanteni Sana!*

(Thank you very much!)

**DAVID TARUS**  
LIVING ROOM CEO



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.

**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.”

## SPOTLIGHT



## Berida Masitsa

FAMILY OF FORMER GUEST

*“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.”*

# 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
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
Dennis McGowan	U.S. Executive Dir., Ex-officio Member

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**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 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.

LEARN MORE AT

**LIVINGROOMINTERNATIONAL.ORG/GIVE**





*The only thing that matters is faith expressing itself in love.*

**GALATIANS 5:6**



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### C R E D I T S

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

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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.

