



Living Room  
INTERNATIONAL

# *upendo* / love

2022-23 YEAR IN REVIEW



## In this issue...

Letter from Juli	3
2022 Blessings	6
Expanding Our Services	8
Micah's Guesthouse	10
Meet Rose	14
Equipping Nurses Through Training	16
This is What it Looks Like to Love	17
Witnessing the Love of God at Living Room	18
Thank You!	19



Dear Friends,

I want to begin by saying thank you, on behalf of our entire Living Room team, for all of the ways you generously stood with us in 2022.

We feel so privileged that you are a part of this important work of loving and our hope is Upendo will give you a better glimpse of all that is happening at Living Room in Kenya. Throughout this issue, you will read stories from our team at both Kimbilio Hospice in Kipkaren as well as Living Room Hospital in Eldoret.

Each and every day, we are given opportunities to love and serve. When I think about Living Room, I keep coming back to the phrase: love is in the details. Love is found in...

- Trainings we are doing with our clinical teams, both in Eldoret and Kipkaren, to better equip our clinicians to provide quality, holistic care to our guests and patients.
- Services that have been expanded—maternity, pediatrics, ICU, operating rooms—enabling us to serve our community who needs access to quality health care.
- Partnership with Moi University in Eldoret's Family Medicine program to strengthen our clinical services.
- Beauty of garden spaces growing with an abundance of flowers and trees.
- Partnerships we've made with local artisans who are creating magical art pieces to fill our spaces.
- Opening Micah's Guesthouse to welcome and serve children going through cancer treatment.
- A growing team of leaders to evaluate present operations and also help us look forward as we firmly hold our vision of being a community of compassion that honors life and offers hope!

I pray these stories will be an encouragement to you! Thank you, as always, for being part of the Living Room family.

With love & 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 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.



# 2022 Blessings



## Celebrating World Hospice & Palliative Care Day

On a bright, sunny Friday in October, our team set aside a few hours to celebrate World Hospice and Palliative Care Day. Voices were heard as our team walked through our village to create awareness about our hospice and palliative care services. A tree was planted at Kimbilio Hospice. Stories were shared by relatives about their journey with grief after losing a loved one. And as we grasped lit candles, a moment of silence was held for loved ones lost in 2022.



## Accessibility for Brighton

It was such an honor to initiate and create a barrier-free school in our community so children like Kimbilio's young guest, Brighton, who became paralyzed after a tree climbing accident, can have the opportunity to receive a quality education.



## Construction in Eldoret

Through much time and effort, we completed complex construction projects at Living Room Hospital enabling us to expand services in maternity, ICU, surgical units, and accommodation for patients needing a Guesthouse.



## Training for Healthcare Workers

Living Room hosted trainings at both Kimbilio Hospice and Living Room Hospital to strengthen the knowledge and skills of our clinicians.



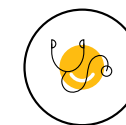
# ONE DAY

## 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.

[LIVINGROOMINTERNATIONAL.ORG/ONE-DAY](https://livingroominternational.org/one-day)



# Expanding Our Services



# Micah's Guesthouse

FLORENCE TOROITICH & STEPHANIE NESSLE



After the doors of Micah's Guesthouse officially opened on January 10, 2023, pediatric cancer patients, their families and Living Room International (LRI) staff have witnessed the blessings of God's goodness.

*"At the Guesthouse, patients feel more at home. Our hospitality allows the children to feel seen and valued while undergoing treatment,"*

**FLORENCE TOROITICH, LRI HOSPITAL SOCIAL WORKER**

To improve the wellness and quality of life of the children at LRI during prolonged hospitalization, the Child Family Life and Hospital School program roots were firmly planted within the

Guesthouse walls. Each day, the multidisciplinary team hosts various activities in addition to structured education time aimed to facilitate friendships between patients, bonds between patient families and hospital staff, and intellectual engagement of the children. Located in the dedicated classroom space of the Guesthouse, children and their families attend school, share meals, have fellowship, and play games with children going through similar situations; all of this is safely structured around medical treatments.

*"We are grateful for your hospitality. God richly bless you and may He expand your territories in Jesus' name."*

**8-YEAR-OLD PATIENT AND HER MOTHER**





Caregivers, who accompany their children in program activities often learn new skills such as beading, knitting, math and literacy. They frequently participate in group worship and playing games together. Families are also provided with psycho-social support, including meeting together to encourage one another.

*“The Guesthouse provides opportunities for families to link arms and live in community with others going through similar situations. The fellowship in this place is rich, raw and a sweet reminder of His gift of relationships to His people.”*

**STEPHANIE NESSLE, LRI HOSPITAL SCHOOL TEACHER**

This blessed Guesthouse and classroom have become a home for the pediatric cancer patients and their families. We are so thankful to be part of God’s care and love for them. Through the collaborative efforts of the Child Family Life and Hospital School Program, Micah’s Guesthouse has quickly become a place of love, healing, joy and God’s provision.

*“Asante sana kwa ajili ya room ya kulala. Asante sana kwa ajili ya chakula. Asante Mungu akubariki!”*

*(Thank you very much for a place to sleep. Thank you very much for the food. Thank you, God bless you!)*

**10-YEAR-OLD PATIENT**





# Meet Rose

## An Interview with Living Room's Administrator at Kimbilio Hospice

My name is Rose Rono. I am married with two children. I hold a certificate in Counseling, a Master's degree in Sociology and a post graduate diploma in Human Resource Management. I have over 20 years of working experience in management positions with various organizations.

### Can you describe your role at Kimbilio Hospice?

I thank God for the opportunity I have had to serve at Kimbilio as an Administrator since June, 2022. My key responsibility is to provide a leadership role to the team and ensure the day-to-day, smooth running of the Hospice. I also monitor the effectiveness of our services and make improvements as needed. Working with



other healthcare professionals, we look for new ways to streamline care services within the facility.

My first assignment in the morning when I arrive is to have a moment with each patient to understand their needs and ensure they get supported; not only to relieve their physical pain but also their psychological, social and spiritual pain. I also ensure the patients in the community (served through the outreach team, Tumaini na Afya), are supported appropriately.

I meet regularly with the Heads of Departments to support the staff and encourage them to continue giving their best in their respective areas; also, I ensure that we work as a team to deliver quality services.

### What impact have you seen on patients and their families who come to Kimbilio?

During the multi-disciplinary meetings with a patient's family members, I have learned that giving them the right information empowers them to make informed choices. These processes require a lot of patience and understanding.

Connecting with compassion has an impact in the patient's life. As a team, we offer patients and their loved ones a sense of control during the most challenging times of their lives - listening and adjusting to their needs as their health care journey progresses.

I have learned that interacting with patients to express feelings and explore the meaning of their experience is important. This includes intervening in crisis by giving emotional and spiritual support to families, patients, and other staff members in the event of death, a profound diagnosis, or any other life-changing moments.

### What motivates and inspires you to do your job?

I am motivated by the fact that I am part of a team who puts a smile on someone's face, even at the most difficult time in their life. Being present, available to the patient, knowing that to listen to the patient's journey may be the most important moment in the clinical interaction. I thank God for every opportunity I share with the patients, even if it means simply being present to listen.

I have learned that interacting with patients to express feelings and explore the meaning of their experience is important. It certainly touches my heart when the patients and family members appreciate the services they receive at the Hospice.

### Where do you see Kimbilio Hospice in 5 years?

In the next 5 years, Kimbilio Hospice will have touched many more lives and as we aim to expand our services, we will always maintain our uniqueness in providing quality, patient-centered services as a standalone inpatient Hospice. We hope Kimbilio will expand both the infrastructure and services to increase the number of people receiving our compassionate care.

### Can you share one experience since you started working with Living Room, which has impacted your life?

I have experienced a mix of emotions as I serve at Kimbilio Hospice - sorrow and joy. I have learned the key focus should always be to encourage patients to develop meaningful relationships with their loved ones.

One experience was with a patient, who, apart from the physical pain, had a lot of social issues with her family, particularly her husband. After several sessions with both the patient and her husband, they agreed to shelve their differences and bitterness and reconcile. Having a strong family support system is key for the mental and emotional stability of the patient in their health care progress.







# Equipping Nurses Through Training

**NANCY KIPTOO, LRIH CHIEF NURSE**

Living Room International Hospital (LRIH) is known for its exceptional healthcare services. Thus, it was no surprise when we launched our new Maternal and Child Healthcare Services in September, 2022. This initiative prompted the need for additional education and training for our nursing staff to ensure they were well-equipped to provide quality care to the mothers and children who would visit the hospital.

The training is both theoretical and practical, with hands-on sessions that allow the nurses to practice what they have learned. The program is ongoing, twice a week, and the nurses are eager to learn and apply their new knowledge.

Since the opening of the Maternal and Child Healthcare Services, LRIH has seen a total of 246 prenatal mothers and conducted 82 deliveries. There have also been 1,712 visits to the pediatric clinic.

LRIH is committed to providing the best care to mothers and children. We will continue to train and educate our staff to ensure they are always up-to-date with the latest medical practices and procedures. We believe every mother and child deserves quality healthcare, and we are dedicated to making this a reality for everyone who walks through our doors.

# This is What it Looks Like to Love: *Bioncy's Story*

**SALOME FEUSI, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST**

Eight-year-old Bioncy was a shy and fearful young girl when our outreach team first visited her at her grandmother's home - so much so, she was hiding behind the safety of her grandmother when we arrived. Due to a congenital, non-cancerous brain tumor, Bioncy has gradually been losing her eyesight since birth. Every evening, she would pack her small school bag, hoping to go to school the next morning with the other children in the neighborhood. However, due to her visual impairment, she was unable to attend a normal public school. Further assessments were needed to assist this precious girl - assessments that required the financial means, knowledge, and support to initiate the required investigations. Our team asked themselves LRI's guiding question, "What does it look like to love in this situation?" The answer led to advocating for Bioncy.

After initial assessments were conducted, we discovered an integrated school for children with visual impairments. And, through much time, effort, and generosity, Bioncy was enrolled in school for the first time in her life. She has been attending this boarding school for a few months now and is thriving in her new environment. On a recent visit to her school, our team found Bioncy surrounded by friends, playing with them outside, and joyously laughing. A now confident and courageous Bioncy gave us a tour of her school and dormitory. We are grateful that she now packs her school bag every evening knowing for sure that she will be able to go to school the next morning. This is what it looks like to love.





# Witnessing the Love of God at Living Room

## SIEGENTHALER FAMILY (SWITZERLAND)

*"I have never been to a place with such a peaceful atmosphere as Kimbilio," Pastor Patrick Siegenthaler relates. He goes on to say: "When people are faithful in small things, what God is doing becomes visible - and that's what I've experienced here." The Siegenthaler family (Patrick, Mirjam and their four children ages 14, 16, 18 and 21) expressed that it was "a privilege to spend our family vacation by being part of the Living Room family for nine days." They joined our outreach team to visit the sick in their homes and served in the various departments at Kimbilio Hospice. In their own words, "We were very impressed by all the love that is lived and can be experienced here. We thank Living Room for so warmly and graciously welcoming us into your family. We have experienced the love of God in a new way in this place."*



## 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 because of what we were able to accomplish together in 2022 as we served the people who needed our services. Through your partnership in prayer and in deed, we were able to expand our services and effectively serve the hundreds of clients who walked through our gates. As the CEO, I say thank you on their behalf – your gifts enabled many families to feel relieved from pain and suffering and they also brought a smile to families who experienced the gift of peace on the Living Room grounds. It is an honor to stand together and support one another on this journey. Thank you and God bless you.

**DAVID TARUS**  
Living Room CEO, Kenya

# THE SPACE BETWEEN



## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS SINCE DEBUT!

The Space Between examines poverty and healthcare through the stories of four individuals struggling with life-threatening illnesses at Living Room's Kimbilio Hospice.

To learn more or purchase the DVD, please visit:  
[thespacebetween.doc.com](http://thespacebetween.doc.com)



## 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 healthcare 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](http://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.

Peter Boit	<b>Chairman (Kenya)</b>	Scott Kujath	<b>Board Member</b>
David Poole	<b>Chairman (U.S.)</b>	Pam Malloy	<b>Board Member</b>
Alero Akuya	<b>Board Member</b>	Eric Martin	<b>Board Member</b>
David Bixby	<b>Board Member</b>	Christian Mungai	<b>Board Member</b>
Janet Boit	<b>Board Member (Kenya)</b>	Allison Tarus	<b>Board Member (Kenya)</b>
Blake Heal	<b>Board Member</b>	David Tarus	<b>Living Room CEO</b>
Isaiah Henry	<b>Board Member</b>	Juli Boit	<b>International Dir., Ex-officio Member</b>
Mary Herbert	<b>Board Member</b>	April Dichosa	<b>U.S. Executive Dir., Ex-officio Member</b>

### 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

**Kenya Phone:** +254 707 643662

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

## C R E D I T S

### **Contributing Writers**

*Juli Boit, Salome Feusi, Nancy Kiptoo, Stephanie Nessle,  
Rose Rono, Patrick Siegenthaler,  
David Tarus, Florence Toroitich*

### **Photography Credit**

*Jeremie Banembe, Naome Kiptoo*

### **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.

