



November 25, 2024

Dear Friends of Living Threads,

As we shared at the recent banquet, the Living Threads Ministry landscape is changing, and we are entering a new season of transition. The journey our Board has walked over the past three years has been marked by continual prayer, a deep desire to discern God's will, and a commitment to honoring the legacy of Living Threads while adapting to the needs of the future. For many of us, change can be challenging, but God tells us in Ecclesiastes 3:1, *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."* It is our desire to keep you updated on our next steps as the future of Living Threads unfolds.

Over the past few years, our team has noticed a significantly reduced demand for memory quilts, a core part of our ministry since our inception. We have also faced the challenge of finding additional skilled quilters, especially from a younger generation, to grow and sustain this part of our ministry. **As we move forward, we have made the prayerful decision to transition away from providing memory quilts and instead deepen our focus on supporting the Bible Clubs in the Kibera Slum.** This change allows us to prioritize the ministry's commitment to meeting the spiritual and physical needs of some of the world's most vulnerable children.

In light of this new focus, we have decided to discontinue the search for a new Executive Director. As you may know, there is currently an abundance of Executive Director openings in the nonprofit sector, with fewer qualified or interested individuals available to step into these roles. Therefore, our current Executive Director, Jill Dannenberg, will continue leading Living Threads, allowing us to maintain stability and direction as we move forward with this new vision.

Our ministry has been blessed with committed sewing volunteers who bring incredible skill, compassion, and dedication to each project. Their commitment has been instrumental in making Living Threads a meaningful part of God's work. While our focus on the Bible Clubs continues, this transition offers new ways for our sewing and non-sewing volunteers to make a tangible impact in the lives of those we serve. By shifting our purposeful sewing efforts, we can support children and communities in Kibera in ways that directly meet their needs. We look forward to seeing how these new projects will allow our sewing volunteers to carry on their invaluable work in ways that deepen our mission.

Some of the key aspects of our transition plan include:

- **Memory Quilts:** We will continue taking new memory quilt orders by for a limited time. This has been a cherished part of our ministry, and we're committed to honoring each current and final request with the same care and compassion we've always provided.

- **Longarm Quilting:** As we work through our transition, we will also be phasing out our Longarm Quilting Department at a date to be determined in 2025. This change is part of a broader effort to reduce our leased space and administrative oversight. Additional information will be provided as we work through this transition.
- **Bible Clubs and Sewing Projects:** Our ongoing commitment to the Bible Clubs in Kibera will remain central to our mission. Through new sewing projects, our volunteers will continue to make an impact by providing items that support health, dignity, and comfort to those we serve.
- **Bible Block of the Month:** The current Bible Block of the Month program, which began in September, will continue, with classes running through May to complete the series with the current group of participants. This will be our final Bible Block of the Month class.

An important part of this transition also involves reducing our operational costs and overall budget. With a more streamlined approach, more of your support will go directly toward funding the Bible Clubs. **We are committed to maximizing the impact of every dollar you give, ensuring that your contributions have a lasting, meaningful effect.**

In addition, we are considering other ways to support our mission financially, including potential fundraisers, such as our January 2025 quilt retreat. Your support and prayers during this transition mean the world to us as we step forward in faith, adapting to meet the evolving needs of our ministry and the communities we serve.

We understand that you may still have questions, and we're excited to share more of this vision with you. To help everyone feel informed and inspired about the next season for Living Threads, we will be holding two open forum Q&A sessions on Monday, December 9 at 1:00 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. These sessions will be held at City on a Hill (conference room), and all are welcome to join. Members of our board will be present to provide additional details about this transition, answer any questions, and talk about why we are so hopeful for this new chapter in the ministry.

We invite you to join us in this journey by keeping Living Threads in your prayers. This is an exciting season for Living Threads, and we look forward to sharing it with you. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out. We are grateful for each of you—our donors, volunteers, and friends—who have walked the past 14 years of Kingdom ministry with us. Together, we look forward to the ways God will continue to use Living Threads to bless lives and make a meaningful impact.

“Now to HIM who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to HIS power that is at work within us.” – Ephesians 3:20

On behalf of our entire Board, with gratitude and blessings,

Jodi DeRoo, Board Chair
 Jill Dannenberg, Founder/Executive Director
 Chuck Vandavelde, Treasurer
 Anne Miedema, Secretary

Mark Ismond, Board Member
 Claire Rotman, Board Member
 Don VandenBrink, Board Member
 Dave Wright, Board Member