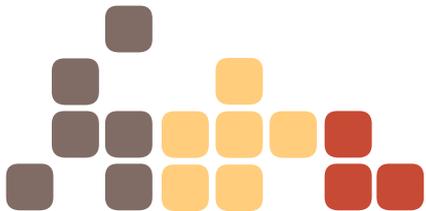




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COMMUNITY  
*4:12*

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Fall 2018 - Spring 2019



## Community 4:12: *The Mission*

*Uniting people to restore communities by mobilizing Christ-followers to be agents of compassion, justice, and love.*

We strive to fulfill our mission through long-term commitments to communities with a focus on meeting immediate needs, building relationships, developing people, and addressing systemic issues that contribute to poverty and inequity. Our name comes from Ecclesiastes 4:12:

*“Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”*

By uniting with others across cultural, racial and economic divides, we learn and grow together and better reflect the heart of Jesus.

Support Community 4:12 when you shop Amazon! You can purchase all the same things at the same prices by going through smile.amazon.com. When you use the site for the first time, just select Community 4:12 as your preferred charity. **Amazon Smile will then donate .5% of your purchase every time you shop through the site.** Your Smile account will connect right to your current Amazon account. It's as simple as that.

**Support the Community 4:12 Mission by making a one time or recurring donation. Visit [community412.org](http://community412.org) and follow the online link to set up your contribution to the ongoing programming in Aurora, Joliet and Chicago.**

## Community 4:12: *History*

Founded on the core belief that children's zip codes should not determine the educational and extracurricular opportunities available to them, Community 4:12 facilitates partnerships between churches and under-resourced schools. Community 4:12 seeks to build on the strengths and assets of the community to address challenges and opportunities identified by our partner schools. We mobilize volunteers, build partnerships with other non-profits, and create funding opportunities to sustain programs, experiences and events that support children and families impacted by poverty.

We began our work in East Aurora in 2003 by partnering with Brady Elementary School. In 2008 we expanded our work to Joliet when we partnered with AO Marshall Elementary School. Most recently, in 2017, Community 4:12 launched in Chicago through a partnership with Palmer Elementary School in Albany Park.

**We believe that children's zip codes should not determine the educational and extracurricular opportunities available to them.**

In an effort to offer holistic support to individuals and families, we support tutoring and mentoring programs, homeless shelters, immigrant and refugee services, and programs for those impacted by incarceration. We foster relationship building across race, culture, and class and place a strong emphasis on educating our community about justice issues impacting our city, country and the world.

## Contact Us

- **Community 4:12 - East Aurora**  
Amy Plummer | amyplummer@communitychristian.org

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- **Community 4:12 - Joliet**  
Loyd Bowman | loydbowman@communitychristian.org

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- **Community 4:12 - Chicago**  
Stef Coleman | stefcoleman@communitychristian.org

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- **General Questions**  
volunteer@community412.org

For more information, to submit a volunteer application, or make a donation, visit [community412.org](http://community412.org)

 [@community412](https://www.facebook.com/community412)

## Response Levels for Community Restoration

LEVEL 1: RELIEF	LEVEL 2: PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT	LEVEL 3: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
<b>Response</b>		
Offer assistance through donations of time, money or supplies	Train, equip and empower individuals to alleviate poverty or suffering in their own lives	Advocate and work for long-term systemic change to restore entire neighborhoods or communities
<b>Commitment</b>		
Can be done from a distance with no long-term relational investment	Requires building relationships and a long-term investment of time	Requires a focus on the “big picture” and a long-term commitment of time and resources
<b>Impact</b>		
Provides immediate, short term results with no significant long-term impact	Results take longer to achieve but are longer lasting. Impact is focused on individuals, one person at a time	Results are incremental and often slow in coming. Impact is focused on an entire community, not just individuals
<b>Examples</b>		
Donate Christmas gifts, school supplies or food	Tutor or mentor a student	Move to an under-resourced community or open a business there
Serve at soup kitchens or shelters	Teach ESL or job skills	Serve on a non-profit board
Provide disaster relief	Be a foster parent	Advocate for marginalized, oppressed, or forgotten people
	Be a friendship partner to a refugee, senior citizen, or someone overcoming personal or medical challenges	

## Giftmart: East Aurora, Joliet, Naperville

December 15<sup>th</sup>



Giftmart partners with businesses, clubs and faith-based organizations harnessing our community's generosity to do more than put presents under the tree at Christmas time. Since 2003, we've collected over **100,000 new toys** to be sold at our Giftmart sites where parents are allowed to choose gifts for their children at a discounted price of \$2 per toy. Over the past decade, Giftmart has helped low-income families **reinvest more than \$200k into their local schools** resulting in the purchase of much needed library books, computers, musical instruments and other supplies. Our mission is to use toys to restore dignity, increase educational funding, encourage parental involvement in local schools and highlight the needs of the communities in our own back yard.



## How to Get Involved:

**Join** one of the planning or lead teams.

**Serve** at the event on December 15<sup>th</sup> and/or during set up the day before. Sign ups will begin in November at [communitygiftmart.org/community412](http://communitygiftmart.org/community412).

Help deliver collection boxes, pick up toy drives or box and sort toys in November and December.

**Host a toy drive:** Businesses, clubs, schools and other toy drive partners are essential. Involve your friends, neighbors or co-workers to help us fill five trailers of toys.

**Donate toys** with a value of \$10–\$20 at Community Christian Church locations the first two weekends in December or at the Yellow Box December 1–14.

**Make a financial donation** to Giftmart at [communitygiftmart.org/community412](http://communitygiftmart.org/community412) and let us do the toy shopping for you.

### Contact Info:

[communitygiftmart.org/community412](http://communitygiftmart.org/community412)

[info@communitygiftmart.org](mailto:info@communitygiftmart.org)

(331) 444–2268

 [@communitygiftmart](https://www.facebook.com/communitygiftmart)

## Summer Serve June 21-23

Summer Serve at COMMUNITY is a way for us to bless those in our neighborhoods. During the weekend of June 21-23, we plan to engage 500+ volunteers at more than 30 different locations in the Chicagoland area.

There are serving opportunities for all ages and schedules throughout the three days with our partner organizations such as:

360 Youth Services	Lifespring
Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry	Loaves and Fishes
Partner Schools in Aurora	New Life for Old Bags
The Neighbor Project	Reclaim 13
Feed My Starving Children	Wayside Cross Urban Youth Ministry
The Forgotten Initiative	World Relief
Hesed House	The Night Ministry
Katherine Manor	The Chad Effect

and more. Registration begins in May, 2019.

## Kids Hope Mentoring

*Kids Hope* builds life-changing relationships one at a time by partnering churches and schools to provide one-on-one mentoring for at-risk youth. Mentors meet with a child for one hour/week during the day throughout the school year. Ideally, the mentoring relationship will continue for several years to see the child through elementary school and possibly beyond.

***There are three key roles COMMUNITY attendees can play:***

1. **Mentor** | meet with a child for one hour/week
2. **Prayer Partner** | provide prayer support and encouragement for a mentor
3. **Scholarship Provider** | provide monthly support for a child to participate

***Community 4:12 sponsors Kids Hope Mentoring programs at:***

- Brady Elementary in East Aurora
- Isaac Singleton & AO Marshall Elementary Schools in Joliet
- Palmer Elementary in Chicago

Submit a volunteer application at [community412.org](http://community412.org) to get involved.

## Safe Families

**Safe Families for Children is a volunteer not-for-profit movement that gives hope and support to families in distress.**

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*Safe Families* ([safe-families.org](http://safe-families.org)) was founded in Chicago in 2003 in an effort to provide safe temporary housing for children while their parents manage challenging circumstances and seasons. *Safe Families* is located in 80 cities in the United States, as well as in the UK, Canada, Kenya, and other countries. *Safe Families* works through local churches to recruit volunteers.

There are several ways to get involved including hosting children, supporting host families (family friend), mentoring kids aging out of foster care, and by becoming a resource friend.

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For more information, contact:

Sue Ferguson | [sueferguson@communitychristian.org](mailto:sueferguson@communitychristian.org)

## Community Freedom

*Community Freedom* is a new approach to transitioning offenders from confinement to freedom through the local church. *Community Freedom* has a 2-part vision: 1) helping people find their way back to God, and 2) successful re-entry into the local community.

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*This is accomplished through three key relationships:*

**Celebrate** - our relationship with God through weekly celebration services

**Connect** - our relationship with others through small groups addressing essential themes for successful re-entry

**Contribute** - our relationship with the world through discovering and using our gifts

*There are four key roles COMMUNITY attenders can play:*

1. **Correctional Facility Team** - participate in weekly Celebration Services, lead small groups or mentor individuals
  2. **Reconnect Team** - participate in weekly Reconnect groups, mentor individuals as they return to the community, or support families who are affected by incarceration
  3. **Prayer Team** - commit to praying for local, national and global Community Freedom efforts
  4. **Administration Team** - help with data entry, facebook presence and other coordination
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Submit volunteer application at [community412.org](http://community412.org) to get involved.

## Justice Series

Join us throughout the year as we explore a variety of modern-day justice issues through films, books, speakers, and panel discussions.

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10/11/18 | Davis Theater, Chicago, 7-9 PM

10/18/18 | COMMUNITY Naperville, 7-9 PM

11/15/18 | COMMUNITY Plainfield (Rm 132), 7-9 PM

1/31/19 | COMMUNITY Naperville, 7-9 PM

3/14/19 | COMMUNITY Plainfield (Rm 132), 7-9 PM

4/11/19 | COMMUNITY Naperville, 7-9 PM

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For more information, visit [justiceseries.org](http://justiceseries.org). Additional events will be added to the webpage as they are scheduled.

## Other Opportunities in Aurora

### OPPORTUNITY

### LOCATION / DATE / TIME

#### Saturday Stars

Mentor 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders who need extra positive adult attention.

**Saturdays**  
**10am – 12 pm**  
**October - April**

#### Dominoes Club

Help elementary students learn to play the game of dominoes to enhance academic development.

**Tuesdays 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm**  
**Two 10-week sessions**  
**(fall and spring)**

#### Chess Club

Help elementary students learn to play the game of chess to enhance academic development.

**Saturdays**  
**9:30 am – 11:00 am**  
**September – December**

#### Project Share Food Collection

Donate non-perishable food, toiletries, and baby care items to help stock the shelves of the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry.

**1st Sunday of the month**  
**at the Naperville Yellow Box**

## Other Opportunities in Aurora (contd.)

## Other Opportunities in Joliet

OPPORTUNITY	LOCATION / DATE / TIME
<p><b>Hesed House Early Childhood Program</b></p> <p>Help provide an early childhood learning experience for homeless children age 2-5.</p>	<p><b>Tuesdays and/or Thursdays 6:15 pm – 8:00 pm September – May</b></p>
<p><b>Hesed House, PADS</b></p> <p>Prepare and serve meals to approximately 200 guests in Hesed House's shelter program.</p>	<p><b>Dinner, overnight and breakfast shifts available. Go to <a href="http://community412.org">community412.org</a> or email <a href="mailto:volunteer@community412.org">volunteer@community412.org</a> for specific dates.</b></p>
<p><b>World Relief Citizenship Tutoring Center</b></p> <p>Help immigrants and refugees prepare for the test to become a U.S. Citizen.</p>	<p><b>Tuesdays 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm</b></p>

OPPORTUNITY	LOCATION / DATE / TIME
<p><b>Kid Pal</b></p> <p>Provide enrichment experiences such as sewing, carpentry, music and knitting.</p>	<p><b>lunchtime &amp; after school October - May</b></p>
<p><b>VBS</b></p> <p>Help provide week-long VBS opportunity providing music, crafts, games and lunch.</p>	<p><b>Isaac Singleton School July 2019</b></p>
<p><b>Daybreak Center</b></p> <p>Meal services, cleaning projects and donation drives coordinated through Daybreak Angels.</p>	<p><b>for specific dates, email <a href="mailto:loydbowman@communitychristian.org">loydbowman@communitychristian.org</a></b></p>
<p><b>The BIG SERVE</b></p> <p>Join COMMUNITY, The Village of Plainfield and other area community organizations for a weekend of service opportunities.</p>	<p><b>Early May 2019. Email <a href="mailto:loydbowman@communitychristian.org">loydbowman@communitychristian.org</a> to join the Big Serve lead team. Go to <a href="http://thebigserve.info">thebigserve.info</a> to register.</b></p>

# Community 4:12

## *The Jesus Mission*

Community 4:12 is a ministry of  
Community Christian Church whose mission is

### **HELPING PEOPLE FIND THEIR WAY BACK TO GOD.**

We do this through the Jesus Mission of  
**Reaching** people who are far from God,  
**Restoring** God's dream for the world, and  
**Reproducing** the mission in others

Community 4:12 embraces the Jesus Mission by  
Uniting People to Restore Communities.

### **CONTACT**

**Web:** [community412.org](http://community412.org)

**Email:** [C412@communitychristian.org](mailto:C412@communitychristian.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/community412](https://facebook.com/community412)



## **COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

78 S. LaSalle Street, Aurora, IL 60505  
1635 Emerson Lane, Naperville, IL 60540

*[communitychristian.org](http://communitychristian.org)*