2019 YEAR IN REVIEW
Hi, COMMUNITY!

2019 has flown by, hasn’t it? If you are like me, you tend to quickly move on to all that the New Year will bring. However, I would like for us to pause for a few moments to celebrate all of the good things God has done in and through us this past year as a church.

To help you slow down and celebrate, let me take you back to the beginning of 2019. We started the year with an unprecedented 21 days of prayer and fasting that I believe paved the way for a season of breakthrough. At the end of this year, we went through a series titled, Breakthrough but the season of breakthrough started before that and will continue into 2020 and beyond. Here is just one of many breakthrough stories we are hearing about at COMMUNITY:

A woman at our Downers Grove location recently shared that her family has been trying to adopt a child for five long and painful years and the week after praying for a breakthrough with her small group she had a vivid dream where she was holding a baby girl. The picture was so clear and she just couldn’t shake it, so the next week she shared the dream with her small group and they decided to pray for a breakthrough. As they bowed their heads to pray that this dream would become a reality, her phone started ringing and it was the call they had been praying for. A baby girl was waiting for them on the other side of the country!

Isn’t that awesome?! That is what I’m talking about when I talk about a season of breakthrough. Whether you’ve received your breakthrough yet or not, don’t stop praying for it. Remember when we pray, God breaks through.

Take your time to read through the pages of the Year In Review. Celebrate the specific God-things that have taken place at COMMUNITY because YOU have been a part of this story. There are a lot of large numbers, but remember behind every number is a person who has found their way back to God.

I love this church!

Dave Ferguson | Lead Pastor
# CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTION</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BREAKTHROUGH</td>
<td>1-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CELEBRATION GENEROSITY</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRAYER</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEOPLE</td>
<td>4-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEADERSHIP RESIDENTS</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUDENT COMMUNITY</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY MUSIC</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLACES</td>
<td>8-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAP &amp; NETWORKS</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCATION UPDATES</td>
<td>10-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLANTS</td>
<td>16-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY FREEDOM</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEWTHING</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATS</td>
<td>19-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GROWTH</td>
<td>19-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATTENDANCE</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINANCES</td>
<td>21-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESOURCE ALLOCATION</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIVING &amp; SPENDING BY NETWORKS</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Engage with all our content wherever you are.
In order to be faithful to our calling and to maximize the opportunities that God has opened up to us, we as a church launched a new initiative called BREAKTHROUGH. The focus of BREAKTHROUGH is on spiritual development and how God is at work in you and our church. We asked everyone to make a three-year commitment to contribute above and beyond their normal tithes and offerings to the BREAKTHROUGH Initiative.

THOSE COMMITMENTS TOTALLED OVER 4.2 MILLION!

FOR 30 YEARS, WE HAVE SEEN GOD USE COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN AMAZING WAYS; AND AS WE PRAY AND ASK GOD “WHAT’S NEXT?”, WE BELIEVE HE’S SAYING, “BREAKTHROUGH.”
TEAM UPDATES

COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL
- New church sponsorship opportunities in Nicaragua.
- Community sponsorships through Compassion exceed 1500 children.

PHILIPPINES
- Local government partnerships to recreate this program all over the country.
- First permanent location of Frontline Christian Academy is under construction - opening in May of 2020!

COMMUNITY 4:12
- Five students passed the citizenship test and are becoming citizens of the United States.
- Monthly food distribution started through partnership with the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry.

NEWTHING
- 855 churches planted in nine regions.
- Actively in 22 countries, with hope for 20 more.

The first 10% of BREAKTHROUGH commitments funded Celebration Generosity teams for 2019.

$6.2+ M
IN 12 YEARS
On November 24th, the last Sunday of our BREAKTHROUGH series, an attender came up to me after the service with tears in his eyes. He told me that his son had committed suicide eight years ago which sent his family spiraling. While that event ultimately was the catalyst that led him back to God, it sent his other son down a much different path that resulted in a heroin addiction and his passing this past summer.

For the last eight years, while he was finding his way back to God, his wife was consumed by anger toward God. His breakthrough prayer was that God would begin to heal his wife’s heart and help her let go of her anger. That morning as he was getting ready to come to church, his wife stopped him and for the first time asked if she could come with him. He told me they both were deeply impacted by the service that day and he was convinced that this was the beginning of the breakthrough he had been praying for in his wife all these years.
Breakthrough starts with people

The next wave of church planters through our Lead Lab. Leadership Residents spend anywhere from six months to one year in training and development before launching a new church or site.

Community Music through our songwriters, musicians, co-writing experiences, music publishing opportunities, and conference-leading. The platforms we have been given access to have led to new, moving and powerful songs. Community Music is shaping the worship culture at our locations, in NewThing churches, and in church communities around the world.

Our students, after having felt their leading in the growing spiritual temperature of our church and the potential students hold for a breakthrough. We will continue to invest in our BLAST Winter Conference and Summer Camp student events.

“I think organic community happens in coffee shops where people are already comfortable. My thought was, if I plant a church where people already naturally build community, then it should be a perfect fit.”

- Jesse Roberts, Leadership Resident
I moved to Chicago because my wife is in a medical residency and I got plugged into COMMUNITY after a quick internet search led me to the website. There I learned about NewThing and I thought, “I want to be around a church that values church planting.” Within three weeks, I was playing on the worship team and I thought, “Well, I guess I’m going here now!” Soon after, I learned about COMMUNITY’s Leadership Residency program and it was exactly what I was looking for. Now I am the Kids’ City director and lead a men’s small group. As a church planter, I want to open a coffee shop and plant a church out of the shop. I think organic community happens in coffee shops where people are already comfortable. My thought was, if I plant a church where people already naturally build community, then it should be a perfect fit. At the same time it takes away barriers some have for going to church. I want to provide an “out of the box” church that points people to Jesus.

- Jesse Roberts, Leadership Resident
When I lived in Russia, my little brother and I didn’t get to experience the love and affection of a real mom and dad. Our dad left us when we were little, and our mom was young and didn’t know how to care for us. When we were 2 and 3 years old, a house fire drastically changed our lives. My brother was injured we both ended up in an orphanage and my mother stopped coming to visit us. Most of the toys were broken and the caretakers were mean and hit the children all the time. Surprisingly, with all the stuff that was going on in my early life, I didn’t cry because I wanted to look strong for my little brother and give him hope that everything would be alright, but what I didn’t know was that there was hope and a God watching over us and he had a plan.

It took a while but two years later we met the loving parents we have now. We started going to the Naperville Yellow Box almost as soon as we came to America. I started to learn about God and what he did thousands of years ago and what he is doing now in the world and in people’s lives. When I was in the 4th grade, I realized how God had worked in my life by giving me loving parents, a nice home, and letting my brother and I stay together so we both could enjoy family, friends, laughter, joy and love together. Now knowing all this, and knowing there is a God and he has a plan for my life and in all our lives, I am ready to take the next step in my spiritual journey, to be committed to learning more about Him. So, today I want to publicly declare my faith, love and commitment to Jesus and I have decided to be baptized here in front of my family and friends.

- Anna Quilici
...Tonight for our student worship night we introduced “Make Room”. We knew they would like it from a musical standpoint, but we had no way to prepare for what God did through that song. When I say the spirit was heavy, I mean physically heavy. The words of the bridge brought students to their knees. Students stepped into a posture of worship that they've never been in.

All that to say, thank you for listening to the leading of God, and allowing him to use you to write what the church needs to hear. — StuCo Leader

Bro... I just had to share this with you. I operate a food pantry and clothing closet. I was playing Make Room... this little girl (maybe 8 or 9)... begins humming the tune. Her mother doesn't speak any English so she's helping me by translating. I'm putting their info in the system and she begins singing “and I'll make room for you to do whatever you want to, to do whatever you want to”... she closes her eyes and begins to tear up.

Brother is was sooooo beautiful. Man keep going man. Keep going.
One of the significant groups that Kids’ City is reaching every week is our families with kids with special needs. There are over 40 kids with special needs that attend our Kids’ City locations.

When we care for a child with special needs, we see changes in them and their whole family. Parents can attend church regularly, and the kids are hearing and absorbing God’s big story. Recently, Kids’ City elementary kids have been a part of worship on the adult stage two times. One young man at our Plainfield location, Caleb Brown, was able to be on stage and participate both times with the support of his special needs buddies. The joy on his face was incredible! In Kids’ City, we believe that all kids are made in the image of God and we certainly saw that reflected in Caleb.

Caleb was not the only child with special needs that made on the adult stage this past month, but his story is an excellent example of the victory for all the kids.
COMMUNITY MAP & NETWORKS

10 LOCATIONS

COMMUNITY

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR LOCATIONS

NETWORKS, LEADERS, LOCATION LAUNCH DATES

1989

1990

2001

2002

2006

2008

2010

2011

2013

2018

LEDDON

CIESNIEWSKI

FERGUSON

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
naperville 2019 was a great year at the Naperville Yellow Box! 145 people took their faith public through baptism, and over half of those were spontaneous decisions during services - How awesome is that?! We have more people than ever connected in small groups - over 1000! Our building continues to be utilized as we partner with local and national conferences and ministries impacting our community in incredible ways (Together, Exponential, Grit and Grace, TedX to name a few). We continue to hear story after story of people finding their way back to God not only through our Sunday and Monday services, but by everything that happens in our space. We continue to work to be a blessing in our community and can’t wait to see how God is going to move in 2020!

plainfield 2019 was a year of incredible leadership development, sending and winning together! In January, Jason Ishmael expanded his role to include key responsibilities as our Associate Community Pastor. In May, Leanna Weber was promoted to Executive Pastor, Tonia Koss to Adult Ministry Director, Margaret Mailhiot to Operations Director and Melissa Heller to Children’s Ministry Director! These four amazing female leaders have brought incredible focus, intentionality and process to our Strategic Team and to the Mission, which has resulted in record numbers of people...
saying “yes” to following Jesus and becoming 3C Christ-followers. In addition, Plainfield developed and sent Alex Partekel to serve as the new Children’s Ministry Director at our Lemont location and Carson Powell as the new Student Ministry Director at our Yorkville location. Ten of our volunteer leaders were asked to participate in Lead Lab where they are presently preparing to lead a ministry. And this year, our Creative Arts Team sent dozens of artists to serve alongside our Montgomery and Yorkville locations as they work to identify future Creative Arts Directors.

2019 marks our second year of operation of the Sportsplex and it was a year of learning and re-tooling. Thanks again to Aspen Group who manages all events and activities and has a solid strategy to welcome record numbers of people into our facility along with a business plan that will generate revenue to further fuel the mission of helping people find their way back to God.

downers grove 2019 has been an incredible year in Downers Grove! This Fall, we opened the doors to a new location, added a service and moved to Sunday morning service times. We have seen amazing stories of people finding their way back to God, experiencing personal breakthroughs and families being restored and transformed. Praise God! All of this exciting movement has resulted in significant growth at our location. Within two years of our launch, we are now averaging 450 people a week, which is almost 40% more people than last year at this time! We have 24 thriving adult small groups, and of our average adult attendance, we have 62% contributing and 75% connected. However, we believe that this is just the beginning of what God has in store for us...The best is yet to come!

“We are now averaging 450 people a week, which is almost 40% more people than last year at this time.”

- Ted Coniaris, Downers Grove Community Pastor
**yorkville** We have many things to celebrate from this past year in Yorkville! First, we saw increased growth in our small group ministry. Six new small groups were launched and because of that, we were able to connect twice the amount of people than the previous year. There have been so many stories of care and support along with developing apprentices for our next leaders. We also celebrated 30 new 3C Christ-followers who are engaged in our mission. Carson Powell joined our staff team in June as our StuCo and First Impressions Director and has already made an impact in both of these ministries. We also celebrated new partnerships in our community! Our new Kids’ Hope Director, Ceil Carey, worked with Autumn Creek Elementary School to re-launch this ministry. We had seven mentors who served and built lasting relationships with students. Carol Neat also led Summer Serve and doubled the number of projects and volunteers that we had over the previous years. These projects included serving the Yorkville Police Department, library, and Food Pantry.

Perhaps the most exciting highlight of all is that we had 25 people go public with their faith and get baptized! With these stories of life change it’s easy to see God on the move in Yorkville. We’re excited to see what 2020 has in store!

**lincoln park** It has been a year of change at our Lincoln Park Location. We ended 2018 by moving across the street into the Latin School of Chicago. It’s a fantastic space that has allowed us to do so much more in 2019! Around the same time, we welcomed Chris Facas to our staff team as Director of Adult Ministries and Community Engagement. Chris found his way back to God at COMMUNITY and it’s so fun to have him on the team! We have ten weekly small groups with more than 70 people connected and growing in their relationships with God and each other, and our First Annual Christmas House Parties were a smashing success! This year we started a growing partnership with Lincoln Park Community Services, and hosted a Friendsgiving Dinner with over 40 COMMUNITY volunteers helping to make that event successful. We’re looking forward to God’s continued provision in the new year!
aurora In 2019 the Aurora location engaged with the community more than ever before. We served in city-wide activities like First Friday in Downtown Aurora, Children’s Day and Fiestas Patrias. Not only that, but we also served our first responders by having our first Hero Serve Day, where we prepared meals and took them to our first responders in the city. We have seen an increase in people connecting in small groups and, as a result, we’ve doubled the number of apprentices who will launch a small group in 2020! Our Kids’ City has grown this past year, and four people decided to take a step of faith by getting baptized. What a great year!

Our presence in the community continues to grow, averaging over 1,000 volunteer hours/year.

- Lincoln Square Location

carillon This year, Carillon focused on the growth of 3C Christ-followers. One year ago, we could only identify 77 3C Christ-followers and now have identified 113! We’ve baptized 21 people, and 262 people are now connected in 23 small groups. Over 162 Carillon attenders contribute by serving at the location or in the community. We are also focusing more on prayer and reaching out to the community in which we live. One expression of this outreach was the purchase for Carillon of a specially trained border collie to discourage the fast growing geese population that have taken up residence in our community. Carillon attenders remain committed to finishing well as they step up to care for one another in times of need while still actively serving as Community 4:12 mentors, and Compassion International sponsors—efforts which result in a local, regional and global impact.
**Lincoln Square**

Lincoln Square experienced an abundance of breakthrough throughout 2019! We saw our 2nd highest attendance ever on Easter, and over 300 families gathered at Winnemac Park for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Our presence in the community continues to grow. Over 1,000 volunteer hours were given this year to help our partner at the Friendship Center with the hot meal program every Thursday evening. We were even able to partner with Gateway to Learning — our Sunday morning gathering space — to help with initial facility improvements. Inside our four walls, God is moving through the lives of our attenders with eight baptisms in August alone and five families dedicating their children to Jesus. We’re so excited to see what God has in store for our community come 2020!

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**Lemont**

2019 has been another great year of helping people find their way back to God in Lemont. Dozens of new people stepped up to contribute at Lemont and in our community. At the Lemont Summer Shindig, 75 people from the community attended and we raised $450. During the Lemont Summer Festival, we hosted a dunk tank and raised $450 for local organizations. In addition, we opened our doors and served nearly 1000 people at Lemont’s Halloween Hoedown! This year we started regular prayer meetings as a consistent time for us to come together and seek direction and guidance together. In 2019, we celebrated the arrival of Branden Benskin as our new Creative Arts and StuCo Director. Branden brings passion and talent to both of these roles. We also brought in Alex Partekel on as our Kids’ City Director, and we moved into our new Kids’ City space. There are so many other wins to celebrate. No doubt about it: God is preparing Lemont for a great 2020!

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*Our attenders continue to find ways to BLESS our community.*

- Montgomery Location
montgomery It was a great year in Montgomery! 583 people attended Easter services, and we hosted over 700 people from the community at the Montgomery Easter Egg Hunt. Our attenders continue to find ways to contribute to our community. We increased our presence at Hesed House, with over 40 attenders serving a total of 20 meals throughout the year. We started a new team at Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry. We also launched a Kids Hope Mentoring program at Nicholson Elementary. We are excited about new partnerships in Oswego by hosting the Chamber for an event in June and serving at the Oswego Christmas Walk for the first time.

Community Online has been watched from Brazil, Germany, India, Norway...and even China!

community online Community Online has averaged 500 viewers weekly with peak attendance at our Easter service that saw 1,217 online attenders! In 2019, Community Online’s watch time was up 64% as well from 2018! Community Online has been watched from Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Germany, India, Norway, Canada, Albania, Singapore, Thailand, South Africa, Kenya, The Philippines, Estonia, Israel, and even China! We saw 42 people use our digital prayer request tool to request prayer over text message. Additionally, Community Online’s first digital small group has an apprentice leader and we’re making plans to multiply to a second group soon. The digital small group has seen young adults connect that were away at college, people who travel for work each week, and we even had a member from The Philippines!

Check out Renee’s baptism which happened as a result of finding COMMUNITY through Community Online:
We are investing in Community Freedom, has already planted successful sites around the country. Now we have the opportunity to invest locally through a new Community location in the Joliet Treatment Center.

Breakthrough happens on the fringes, and we plan to invest in Chicago church plants, including church planters in under-resourced neighborhoods. We are partnering with more than 30 churches to plant 50 new churches in Chicagoland in the next three years. Our partners through the four NewThing networks in Chicagoland will work together to make sure that more and more people find their way back to God through new churches in Chicago.
Community Freedom inspires and equips the local church to plant locations behind bars; creating a culture of community that allows the church to walk alongside returning citizens as they transition from confinement to freedom. We’re thrilled to celebrate our first anniversary at the JR Donovan Correctional Facility in San Diego, California and the launch of our second location at the Joliet Treatment Center (JTC) in Illinois.

The ministry of Community Freedom reminds all of us that we are all made in God’s image and no one should be defined by the worst thing they have ever done.

- Eric Dorsey

We experienced how Community Freedom can help people find their way back to God even before we launched in the JTC. Terry Hazel, a COMMUNITY attender, took the next step in being a 3C Christ-follower as a result of Community Freedom. Terry has been an attender at the Naperville Yellow Box, but it was not until she heard about Community Freedom that she decided to get connected. Years ago, Terry experienced incarceration and she felt that the issues she had dealt with were not being addressed in church. Community Freedom gave her the ability to talk about her experiences and struggles and find purpose in her past. Terry is now apprenticing as a leader at COMMUNITY as a result of her involvement with Community Freedom.
Through NewThing’s Chicagoland Movement, COMMUNITY is proud to be involved in local church planting. Our mission is to catalyze multicultural church planting networks to transform Chicagoland. In 2019 we were able to:

- Plant 11 NEW churches in Chicagoland
- Develop four networks of 30 reproducing churches
- Gather hundreds of Chicagoland’s multicultural church leaders to prayerfully pursue church planting together

In November, COMMUNITY collaborated with Park Community Church, Kingdom Covenant and Sow Chicago Community Church to plant Missio Dei Edison Park. Bob Hedge, the Lead Pastor of Missio Dei and a Leadership Resident, moved his family into this Chicago neighborhood with the mission of helping people find their way back to God. On opening day, Bob took time to thank each church who supported him. We couldn’t be prouder of Bob’s family and his team!

For 2020, the Chicagoland Movement is “Dreaming Big” together! In an effort to live out our mission, we are hoping to:

- Launch a total of 25 NEW church plants with several of those being in under-served communities.
- Develop six networks of over 60 churches.

We’ve already begun gathering with leaders and we will spend the better part of 2020 dreaming, praying and coming alongside local churches to see this new work started. Please pray that God would do more than we could ask or imagine in 2020!
It makes me really feel like I’m doing what God intended - I’m making a difference by making someone else feel at home, making them feel like they belong, just as I had been made to feel when I walked through the door.

Click for the rest of Salena’s story
GROWTH

BY YEAR


4,853 5,179 5,272 5,412 5,502 5,638 5,693 5,702 5,958 6,411 6,576

*estimates pending Christmas  **Totals don't add up to 6,576 because we launched JTC in November

ATTENDANCE AVERAGES

BY LOCATION (2019)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>NYB</th>
<th>AUR</th>
<th>LEM</th>
<th>CAR</th>
<th>DGR</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>PLF</th>
<th>YKV</th>
<th>LSQ</th>
<th>LPK</th>
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<td>2,541</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>118</td>
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<td>1,980</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>481</td>
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Community Christian Church
$8.12M
2019 GIVING (PROJECTED)

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

1 Chronicles 29:14
2019 FISCAL YEAR (OCT 2018 - SEPT 2019)

REACH

48%

Reaching those who are far from God
- Location Ministries & Operations
- Catalyst Ministries & Operations
- Facilities
- Capital Replacement Savings

RESTORE

23.7%

Restoring God’s dream for the world
- Community 4:12
- Compassion International
- Philippine Frontline Ministries
- Global Missions
- Benevolence
- Cars of Hope

REPRODUCE

28.3%

Reproducing the Jesus Mission in others
- NewThing
- Multiplier Fund
- Leadership Residents
- New Locations
GIVING & SPENDING
BY NETWORK

GIVING $7.99M

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Network</th>
<th>Giving (in millions)</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leddon*</td>
<td>$4.98M</td>
<td>62.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ciesniewski**</td>
<td>$2.63M</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ferguson***</td>
<td>$386K</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
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SPENDING $8.01M

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Network</th>
<th>Spending (in millions)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leddon*</td>
<td>$4.62M</td>
<td>57.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ciesniewski**</td>
<td>$2.8M</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferguson***</td>
<td>$594K</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
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Network led by Doug Leddon; *Network led by John Ciesniewski; **Network led by Jon Ferguson

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Whether you’ve received your breakthrough yet or not, don’t stop praying for it. Remember when we pray, God breaks through.

- Dave Ferguson | Lead Pastor