



# YEAR IN REVIEW

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH



**M**ovement was Jesus' vision for the church from the very beginning. Jesus made sure that his disciples understood that the church was designed for movement with this challenge before he left this earthly terrain: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." It's hard to miss—Jesus was saying, use the church to help people find their way back to God from here to the very edges of this planet!

Jesus' vision for the church was what inspired Jon and me 34 years ago to scratch out on the back of a napkin this three-phased vision for COMMUNITY:

**Phase #1: Impact Church**

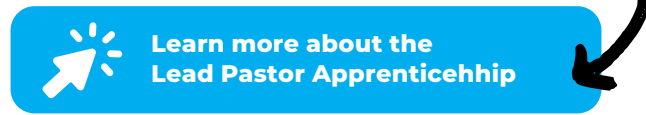
**Phase #2: Reproducing Church**

**Phase #3: Movement Making Church**

We wanted to see COMMUNITY ultimately become all that Jesus envisioned for his church: a movement! At the core of every movement are two components: discipleship and apprenticeship. I've done the homework, and every time in history the church takes on a movement form, it is because there are disciples who are making other disciples and leaders who are apprenticing other leaders. For that reason, our two-fold focus for 2023 was:

- **YOU+ discipleship conversations**
- **Apprenticeship**

Throughout the pages of this 2023 Year-In-Review, you will read about the YOU+ conversations that took place this year. These were discipleship conversations with our kids, students, and adults. You will also read about the priority of apprenticing new leaders. Some new leaders serve our kids, our students, others on teams within our church facilities, and others in our community or with the arts. This priority of apprenticeship is for every leader at every level. That is why, between now and May of 2025, I am apprenticing Ted Coniaris as the new lead pastor. I am doing everything possible to ensure he is ready to lead this church and take it places I have not!

 [Learn more about the Lead Pastor Apprenticeship](#)

Because of that two-fold focus of discipleship and apprenticing leaders, COMMUNITY is now emerging into phase three of our vision: movement making church. We now have **96** MicroChurches in **4** countries (being India, Cuba, Uganda and the U.S.) reaching over **2000** people! Our church planting ministry, NewThing, has helped plant nearly **15,000** churches in over **60** countries since its beginning two decades ago.

As you read through our 2023 Year in Review, do so with gratitude for how good God has been, and with a conviction that the best is yet to come!



Dave Ferguson  
Lead Pastor | Community Christian Church



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*you+*

This past year, we were thrilled to launch YOU+, a discipleship tool featuring a simple conversation that helps someone identify where they want to grow in their connection with God (YOU+ God), the church (YOU+ the church), and the world (YOU+ the world). YOUplus.info begins with a 30 minute reflection; an invitation for God to speak and bring to mind your next steps for your discipleship journey. You then schedule a conversation with anyone you know and trust, receiving resources and support to the next steps God is inviting you to take. This past year, we saw over **1000** YOU+ conversations take place between adults, students and kids, as people leaned in, with faith, and asked where God was inviting them to grow in their connection to God, the church, and the world. One such person was Sheryl, who had been worshipping with Community Online but sensed it was time for her to stop living life alone. So Sheryl scheduled a YOU+ conversation and said, "It was such an easy conversation but one that meant so much to me." As a result of her YOU+ conversation, Sheryl joined a small group, and got involved in LivingUNDIVIDED and reflected, "these are things I never would have done before." We're so excited about all that God has been doing through these conversations and what's ahead for YOU+ in 2024!



**Download the app on android and iOS!**

## APPRENTICESHIP

**W**hen you think about Jesus’ ministry, do you think about Him spending most of his time preaching sermons to crowds and feeding the masses? Or do you think of Jesus as spending time with the twelve, his small group? Research on the Gospels shows that **about three-fourths of Jesus’ time was spent apprenticing his disciples.** The Gospels record 46 events that Jesus spent with only the disciples compared to 17 events that Jesus spent with the masses—almost three to one. Jesus spent 73 percent of His time with the twelve.

What was he doing? Jesus was apprenticing his disciples!

There’s an easily overlooked verse in John 3:22 that says, “After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them.” The Greek word for “spend time with” is this composite word, diatribo. Dia means “against,” and tribo means “to rub.” So diatribo literally means “to spend time together rubbing off on each other.”

This simple relational way of apprenticeship was Jesus’ strategy for creating a movement that would change the world! Below is a simple tool called the 5 steps of apprenticeship that we use to develop leaders at every level. After each step, the leader meets with their apprentice and asks, “What worked? What didn’t work? And how can we improve?”

**I do. You watch. We talk.**

**I do. You help. We talk.**

**You do. I help. We talk.**

**You do. I watch. We talk.**

**You do. Someone else watches.**



At COMMUNITY, we believe one leader “spending time with” and “rubbing off” on an apprentice leader is still the best form of disciple-making at a leadership level. Like Jesus, we believe it is the best strategy for changing the world!



## AURORA

God has been so good to us in 2023. At the beginning of the year we started a second service. As a result of it, we have seen new families come through our doors and many of them have decided to stay and make Aurora their church home!

Many of those conversations resulted in one our highlights from this year - the number of people saying yes to Jesus through baptism. Just this past summer we baptized **14** people, including **2** from Kids' City.

Our local partnerships have also increased. This summer we collected **19 journey bags** that we gave to the State of Illinois for kids entering the foster care system. We also joined with our brothers and sisters from St. Mark Lutheran Church and had a clothing drive where we served more than **100** people food and had fun activities for the kids.

Our small groups continue to grow. This year we had groups where apprentices started to lead which multiplied the number of small groups we can offer our attenders. God has been on the move and we could not be more excited to see what he will continue to do in 2024!



**New families make Aurora their**  
*church home!*



 **visit *this* location**  
[communitychristian.org/aurora](https://communitychristian.org/aurora)

## CARILLON

God has been at work in Carillon in 2023! With the addition of a new First Impressions Director and two worship leaders who complete our Creative Arts team, we are focused on creating an inviting and inspiring worship experience that helps people find their way back to God. Over the last year, we have seen encouraging growth, averaging 1-2 new attenders each month.

Over 25 people have attended our quarterly newcomer lunches. These gatherings serve as a more personal version of Explore Community where we discuss who we are as a church, what we believe and promote small groups and service opportunities. These lunches have been instrumental in helping new attenders continue or get started on next steps in their spiritual journey. Nearly all of those who attended have since joined a small group and are serving on teams. A few have even gone on to lead a new ministry.

Carillon celebrated 12 baptisms this year! **Five of them were inspired to be baptized after attending Alpha.** Our small groups continue to grow through an emphasis on apprenticeship and inviting others. Over 200 people are involved in small groups and 3 new small groups were formed in 2023. One new small group leader served as Community Pastor Steve Clason's apprentice for Alpha and is now leading a new group in a new study.

YOU+ discipleship conversations are a priority at Carillon. We engage our small group leaders to encourage their members to have YOU+ discipleship conversations. To date, we have had 23 YOU+ discipleship conversations.

This year we had some great opportunities to reach and serve our community. Through our partnership with Singleton Elementary school in Joliet, Carillon attenders mentored 7 students, meeting with them weekly to help them with homework, play games, and just be a consistent, comforting presence in these students' lives. In October, we hosted a successful Comedy and Dessert night for our Carillon community. Nearly 260 people enjoyed the comedy of nationally known comedian Brad Stine and some delicious desserts!

We look forward to continuing the momentum started in 2023 and to see what God has in store for Carillon in the coming year!



 **visit this location**  
communitychristian.org/carillon

## DOWNERS GROVE

**A**s we reflect on the past year, we're filled with gratitude for the incredible journey we've shared together. February marked the 5th anniversary of the Downers Grove location. **This milestone allowed us to pause and reflect on the impact our church has had on the lives of people in our community.** We celebrated the stories of the lives that have been transformed by the work of God through our church.

In April, we hosted our annual Easter celebration at the historic Tivoli Theater with **725** of our neighbors. The party continued in June when we returned to the GroveFest mainstage for a Sunday service that filled the streets of Downers Grove with the sound of more than **300** people singing songs of praise. It was a testament to the spirit of our community and our commitment to sharing the message of God's love.

**We are continually committed to making a meaningful difference in our community, and this year was no exception.** Through our yearly school supplies drive, we aim to provide for every student in Downers Grove District 58 who needs assistance. This year, the school district identified **85** students in need, and thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide all 85 students with their entire list of supplies! That partnership continues to grow as we respond to

the evolving needs of our community, including welcoming teachers and families back to school in August, providing **20** pairs of snow pants for kids, and opening our facility for weekly after-school programs. This fall marked the second anniversary of our Administer Justice Center, where we've been providing access to low-cost legal aid to the vulnerable in our community.

Our church is not just a building; it's a thriving community of faith! **People of all ages are taking significant steps in their discipleship journeys.** Many new families have joined Kids' City, students continue to bring friends to experience StuCo, and over **50** adults have joined a small group for the first time this year. As these ministries grow, we celebrate each person who has said "yes" to an apprenticeship invitation.

**Through YOU+ Discipleship conversations, we've witnessed incredible transformations** as people take steps of faith to deepen their connection with God, the church, and the world. As YOU+ conversations continue, we're excited to grow as disciples who hear from God and do what he says.

We are expectantly praying for the Holy Spirit to continue to move powerfully through our location in 2024. **The year ahead holds tremendous promise,** and we're excited to continue our journey together.

**Our church is not just a building...**

It's a **thriving** community of faith!



visit *this* location  
[communitychristian.org/downersgrove](https://communitychristian.org/downersgrove)



## LINCOLN PARK

**2**023 has been an incredible year for our Lincoln Park location! After an immense amount of prayer, discernment, and searching, God provided a new church home that is right across the street at the historic Victory Gardens Biograph Theater. The change has opened up the opportunity for a new ministry, as we sent out mailers, made personal invitations, and, as a result, have seen the neighborhood show up. One neighbor commented, “I was just beginning to wonder if I should start returning to church when a mailer showed up. I ignored it, only to have two more arrive over the next several weeks. I could tell God was trying to speak to me and thought I should finally listen.”

To top it off, in October we celebrated **10** years since Lincoln Park was launched, with a celebration of the stories, the people who have been serving, the partnerships we’ve been able to form, and most importantly those who found their way back to God. All of this was possible because **COMMUNITY** has been here, shining the love of Jesus to the city!

**People across the city are taking next steps in**

*following Jesus!*



**“I COULD TELL GOD WAS TRYING TO SPEAK TO ME, AND I THOUGHT I SHOULD FINALLY LISTEN.”**



**visit this location**  
[communitychristian.org/lincolnpark](https://communitychristian.org/lincolnpark)



## NAPERVILLE

**2**023 demonstrated God's faithfulness during transition and uncertainty. Under the tenure of interim pastors Dave and Sue Ferguson, the Naperville Yellow Box thrived in almost every way, and we give all the credit to God's unwavering faithfulness to people willing to follow him. We saw hundreds of people have a YOU+ discipleship conversation and grow stronger in their faith. Many of those stepped into leadership after their conversation to serve with kids, students, and adult. In August, we welcomed our new Community Pastor, Chris Nichols, and we're delighted he's joined the team. We also saw **500** people join us for Easter at the Café. Our location continues to grow in diversity, attendance, leadership, and our staff team. Finally, we saw people sent out for mission, like Rick Bolle, who started the All Abilities Service.

This year, the Naperville Yellow Box had **50** people say "yes" to Jesus through baptism. One student named Mark recently said, *"I've felt that warm nudge in the back of my mind when other people were being baptized, and I knew it was God calling me to do it."* His sister Hazel felt the same calling, and said, *"I immediately knew I wanted to as well. When I think about all the times God has helped me through hard times and has helped my whole family, I knew this would be a great way to announce to the world that I believe in and follow Jesus with all my heart."*

When their mother, Lisa, heard this, she also decided she wanted to be baptized. She said in her baptism story, *"When my children said they wanted to be baptized, I knew it was God cheering us all on to do this together. I know I will come out victorious because of God."*

This year, we encouraged everyone to take the next step in their faith by having a YOU+ discipleship conversation, and over **400** people did just that! One person said, *"Having my YOU+ conversation helped me articulate what I needed at the time and what I hoped for in the future. Speaking these words out loud to someone I trust and respect has made me feel accountable and supported."*

We're seeing the same kind of momentum with our students. Some make it a point to sit in the front row during Sunday services. One of those students recently shared *"since joining a StuCo group, I have grown in my faith and community with others in the church. We are all on a journey in our faith, and our group is there as a community supporting each other along the way. We have great leaders, and they make our groups feel special."*

This year, we saw the start of our All Abilities MicroChurch service led by Rick Bolle. The service is designed for families with a special needs family member to worship together, and all are welcome. As Rick often says, *"There are no distractions during the service, only interactions within this community."* God opened the doors in January 2023, and over **120** call this MicroChurch their home. Their mission is to help people of all abilities find their way back to God, and you can see God's love on full display every Sunday night!

We're praising God for the movement we've seen this last year, and we appreciate all our people and leaders who have served and led so faithfully. We look forward to seeing how God works in 2024.



visit **this location**  
[communitychristian.org/naperville](https://communitychristian.org/naperville)

## PLAINFIELD

2023 was a year of being the church to hundreds who joined us for the first time, but also to many others who have called COMMUNITY their church home for decades, like our dear sister in Christ, Brenda Saddler.



Brenda and her husband Rodney began attending COMMUNITY with the launch of our Shorewood location in 2004. Over time, Brenda and Rodney said yes to Jesus in baptism, invited **three generations of Saddlers to celebrate on Sundays**, and generously invested their time and resources so that hundreds more would find their way back to God. Brenda unexpectedly passed away in April, but because of the way she lived out the Jesus Mission, hundreds came to celebrate her life. They shared stories of her love for Jesus, His church, and a world needing a Savior. True to their faith, Rodney continues to be on mission and celebrates with us on Sundays with one or more adult grandchildren at his side.

Thanks to a new partnership with Loaves and Fishes, if you stop by our parking lot around 3:30pm on Tuesday, **you will see a line of cars waiting to be served by our volunteers**. By 6pm nearly **100** families are graciously greeted with a smile, a prayer, and a trunk filled with groceries.

The Sportsplex seldom rests and recently began opening its doors to athletes on Sunday mornings while Celebration Services were underway. Many were surprised to learn that the facility houses a church. Some were quickly drawn to the music, stayed for the teaching, and two even stuck around and said **“yes” to Jesus through baptism!**



visit *this* location  
communitychristian.org/plainfield

## YORKVILLE

Reflecting on the year at Community Christian Church in Yorkville, it's evident that 2023 has been a period marked by significant growth and momentum for our church family. This past year we saw **503** people attend our Good Friday and Easter services! One of our focuses continues to be **helping FAMILIES find their way back to God**. Some of the fun family events we held this year to connect our families included Family Community Night, Nerf Battle, Outdoor Movie Night, and Baptisms & BBQ.

Throughout the year, two key achievements and milestones have been reached:

**Spiritual Growth:** The church has seen a noticeable increase in spiritual engagement and growth through our YOU+ discipleship conversations

Adults, Students, and Kids YOU+ conversations | **97**

Baptisms | **6**

Small groups | **115** people in **18** groups

Average Weekend Attendance | **194**

**Apprenticeship & Leadership Development:** This past year we saw more people start to serve and find their place on a team. Every area (Worship Arts, First Impressions, StuCo, Kids' City, and Adult Ministries) has added leaders to their teams and **79** people attend our Fall Kickoff Leadership Community in August! Currently, we have **82** people serving on a team in Yorkville.

As we move forward into the coming year, the momentum and growth experienced in 2023 will serve as a strong foundation for our community. With continued dedication, unity, and a shared vision, we are excited to see how Jesus uses us in Yorkville to help even more people find their way back to God!

 **visit this location**  
communitychristian.org/yorkville



 **visit us online**  
[communitychristian.org/online](https://communitychristian.org/online)

## COMMUNITY ONLINE

**C**ommunity Online has had an incredible year! In a world that's more connected than ever, we've not only kept pace but set new milestones that showcase how God is doing some incredible things with this expression!

A significant highlight of 2023 has been the remarkable **35%** increase in online attendance at [communityonline.tv](https://communityonline.tv). Collectively, these views amount to a stunning **6,290** hours of watch-time. And for **6,882** people, it was their first time attending Community Online!

Over the year, **210** attendees have reached out for prayer on Sunday mornings. Our amazing prayer team has cared for each person and followed up throughout the week to genuinely walk with them, digitally! Our online hosting team has also had an exciting year. Ashley, an online attender from Santa Claus, Indiana, took the next step and began serving as a chatroom host. Her story of getting connected was even shared at our all-church Leadership Community event!

2023 marked a year of unprecedented global connection. Community Online extended its reach to **49** states and touched lives in **64** countries. This "global impact" is not just a phrase for us; it's the realization of our mission to bring together a diverse congregation in fellowship and faith. This way we transcend physical boundaries and help people find their way back to God.

We move forward with grateful hearts, inspired by every story of connection, every prayer request, and every new face in our chatroom. We're praying that God continues to work in and through Community Online and do something spectacular in 2024.

**T**his year has been a multiplication year for our MicroChurch expression. We started a digital MicroChurch in Spanish this year that gathers about **25** people each week. At the beginning of 2023 we had **35** international MicroChurches and by the fall that number grew to **96**. Today we have **96** MicroChurches that call COMMUNITY their church in four countries! What is most impressive is that each one of those MicroChurches averages **25** people in attendance. That means

we have over **2000** people who meet weekly.

impact of COMMUNITY around the world.

Two of the biggest highlights of this year are the MicroChurch for people of All Abilities led by Rick Bolle. More than **120** people showed up for the first service. They've continued to have an average attendance of **70** people.

We also had the opportunity to visit our MicroChurch network with our friends in Cuba. It was a great time to get to know their stories and to see in person the



## MICROCHURCH



 **learn more**  
[communitychristian.org/microchurches](https://communitychristian.org/microchurches)

## COMMUNITY FREEDOM

During 2023, Community Freedom saw its influence grow throughout the Chicagoland area. In May, Community Freedom Pastor Eric Dorsey was invited to do a workshop for the CMCA (Correctional Ministries & Chaplains Association) at Wheaton College's Institute for Prison Ministries. This conference hosted hundreds of church leaders, chaplains, and government agencies that serve the incarcerated population. To view the online version of this workshop, [click here](#)

Our teams inside the Joliet Treatment Center (JTC) and the DuPage County jail continue to make a difference in the lives of the men we serve. Community Freedom continues to allow our volunteers to live out their God-given passion to love their neighbor. Volunteers like Gail Frezados say that facilitating our Alpha Small groups inside the jail is *"the highlight of my week."*

Volunteer Judy Zehr leads a team of women who serve monthly at Lifespring, a transitional housing facility for women and their children. Our women volunteers provide a small feeling of family and community for these women as they rebuild their lives.

Our Give Hope ReEntry Team has grown significantly this year. Dave Hanson, who became an apprentice leader just two years ago, has done a tremendous job leading our Give Hope volunteer leaders and the Give Hope MicroChurch. So many testimonies have come about as a result of this fantastic team. Stories like Mike, Bailey and Tarkus' have been inspirational to so many. We are so excited to see what God does with Community Freedom in 2024!



[watch Tarkus' story!](#)



**120 men participated in 2023**  
That's more than *double* the previous year!

 **learn more**  
[communitychristian.org/cflocations](https://communitychristian.org/cflocations)

# KIDS' CITY

This past year the Kids' City team has been working together in several areas:

## Rebuilding the Foundation

We developed coaches and coaching structures at each location. We called in the coaching experts to train and equip directors during our Kids' City skill meetings, carved out intentional time to develop coaching plans, and are checking in each month during 1:1's to support each other in fulfilling those plans.

## Defining our Ministry Constants and Scalable Models

The catalyst team has been creating "How To" documents that outline how to carry out each of our Kids' City events and resources, while also determining the essential components (constants) and how they may look different at each location (scalable model).

We are also creating on-ramping tools to better equip our leaders to apprentice well at every location.

## Resourcing Parents

This past year Kids' City provided 21 milestone classes and parent events, intended to come alongside parents as they seek to develop the future faith of their children. Hear are a few!

**Kids' City Experience** | over 200 parent participants

**Child Dedication Classes** | 16 families dedicated their children

**DIVE Family Baptism Classes** | 18 families participated

**5th Grade Move Up** | 53 new students and their parents participated

**Parent's Night on Mental Health** | 230 participants



## MINISTRIES - KIDS' CITY

Kids' City also provides different types of physical resources throughout the year to support and encourage parents and guardians to be the spiritual providers of their homes.

**Prayer and Fasting Resource** that aligned with the 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting in January.

**YOU+ Family Resource** that aligned with the YOU+ Parenting series (407 families resourced!)

**Family Communion Resource** that prepares families to participate in communion together for Good Friday services

**How to Read the Bible** that aligned with the *Hearing God* series.



looking for these resources?  
visit [KidsCity.org](https://www.kidscity.org)

## Stories

A parent shared the timeliness of the Parent Night for Mental Health as she was feeling fear, sadness, and a sense of hopelessness after her 4th grade son told her that he thought "the world would be happier without him here." The night gave her a sense of hope knowing that she wasn't alone, and gave her the voice to invite a community to wrap around her and her son.

From a parent who attended the Kids' City Experience: *"I have been so involved in the church, but I had NO IDEA how much our kids are experiencing in Kids' City. Thank you for providing an opportunity for my kids to be a part of a small group, teaching them to be generous, and providing a time for them to worship every week. I'm so glad that I got to be part of this experience!"*

The Children's Ministry Director from Sagemont Church reached out to see if they can use our Prayer and Fasting Resource for parents, stating, *"It is truly the best idea and resource for children that I have seen!!!"*

Student Community (StuCo) this year has been focused on raising up the next generation of Christ followers! In 2023, students had more than **350** YOU+ discipleship conversations challenging them to take tangible steps and daily habits that orient their lives around their faith. These conversations remind students they aren't alone and there are other students and leaders walking alongside them.

This year we saw the addition of **11** new apprentice leaders to continue moving the mission forward. One of these leaders who has particularly grown in our ministry experienced seven years of StuCo and became a leader when he started college. Ethan McClure wanted to explore a career in student ministry, so he applied to become an intern at our Aurora location. During his internship, he had the opportunity to plan events, teach, and play a significant role in the execution of StuCo Summer Camp. Ethan also took the reins at the Aurora location while the StuCo Director, Lauren Knautz, was on maternity leave!

Ethan was asked to reflect on his time as an intern at Aurora and said *"It's been great being able to be hands-on with what it's like to run a youth ministry and see what decisions are made, and why they're made. In my relationship with God, I feel like I've gotten closer to what he's calling me to do, and I'm excited to see where God takes me next."*

We are so excited to see how God works in the lives of even more students and leaders through StuCo over the next year!

**"I FEEL LIKE I'VE GOTTEN CLOSER TO WHAT HE'S CALLING ME TO DO, AND I'M EXCITED TO SEE WHERE GOD TAKES ME NEXT."**

## ADULT MINISTRY

**A**dult ministry has begun to see a shift in the landscape of our small group culture. Groups have always been a place for people to dive into scripture, pray, support, and encourage each other. And yet, there is a real sense of wanting more, too.

This Fall, we saw **278** people join a small group for the first time, and there is a lot of momentum and hunger for a deeper relationship with Jesus and abiding with the Holy Spirit. Here is one small group's journey that can maybe express what we are experiencing.

The Dickson small group is made up of young professionals in Chicago and has been meeting for two years. As the group met, the first thing they noticed was how much they liked sharing food. One person in particular, Deanna, wanted to bake pastries as a creative outlet, so every week, she would bring something new, and the group would try it and rate it.

As they worked through the book of Acts together, **they were struck by how often the church shared what they had with others.** The group talked quite a bit about the homeless population in Chicago and how distressing it was to walk by someone who asked for money that you knew wouldn't help them if you gave it to them and yet feel so hopeless to be able to offer anything better.

That was when Sean and Deanna started talking about how easy it would be to go to the grocery store, buy water bottles and granola bars, and put them into zip-lock bags that they could quickly put in their backpacks for their commute to work. As they talked it through, **everyone in the group thought this was a fantastic idea, and the plan came together.** The following small group, they assembled the packs in zip-lock bags, and the next week, they started sharing stories. The group talked more and more about offering to **pray for a person when they offered a care bag.**

They also discussed including a verse or encouragement and intentionally saying "God bless" whenever the bag was handed out. In this simple way, the group realized they could be part of tangibly blessing the homeless community around them.

**They discovered that they can be a small group that doesn't just enjoy food together, but also shares their love of food with their neighbors in need.**

People in our small groups are experiencing a missional movement together, and we can't wait to see where God leads us in the coming year!





**34.7M**

**TOTAL STREAMS**

**712K**

**NEW LISTENERS**

**407K**

**PLAYLIST FEATURES**



## COMMUNITY MUSIC

Community Music is celebrating so many things this year! In a year of musical exploration, Community Music has been busy creating inspired songs that draw from Scripture, Sunday messages, and the collective journey of our church. Exciting developments are underway as we prepare for an EP release in the spring of 2024. Notably, we've already unveiled the first of three singles, "**Break the Walls**," a collaborative effort with Anchored Music in Los Angeles.

Engaging with StuCo students at Summer Camp 2023 and leading the entire team at the All-Church Leadership Community in September were highlights, that featured the introduction of two new songs, "**Prodigal Savior**" and "**All Things New**."

On Apple Music, we've garnered **265.9K** average monthly listeners and **10.1 million** streams in 2023. Meanwhile, on Spotify, we totaled **3.6 million** listeners, amassing an impressive **24.6**

**million** streams and inclusion in **407k** playlists. With **712k new** listeners in 2023, our songs are being streamed in **184** countries. "**Make Room**" has had **3 million** listeners, and has been played over **17.6 million** times.

With numbers like these we can't help but celebrate! But most importantly, we celebrate God! He is making all things new. He is growing a garden and preparing us for the harvest. We are humbled by the ways He's using us to plant seeds, encourage, challenge and meet our church family right where we are. We praise Him for what He's doing in each of our own hearts and that He allows us to be part of helping people find their way back to God through music.

We are so grateful for your support of Community Music this past year. We pray that you are drawn closer to Jesus through the words and music He's given us, and we're excited to see what He has in store for 2024!

 **learn more**  
communitychristian.org/cm

# CELEBRATION GENEROSITY



800

HOUSEHOLDS  
PARTICIPATING

94

FIRST TIME  
GIVERS

\$364K

TOTAL  
GIVEN

\$7,505,070

GIVEN OVER 16 YEARS

**C**elebration Generosity is like an annual holiday at COMMUNITY! It's kind of like Thanksgiving when everyone sits down to enjoy a traditional meal or Christmas when everyone is inspired to give a gift to someone they love.

Celebration Generosity is the one Sunday each year when we ask **everyONE to give ONE gift, ONE time** - above and beyond our normal giving, to three great causes that are all about the mission of Jesus:

**Community Cares** who partners with local nonprofits to bring transformation to communities across Chicagoland.

**NewThing** that is starting and sustaining life-giving churches in Chicagoland and all over the world.

**Philippine Frontline Ministries** that has a multi-faceted mission in the Philippines among the poorest of the poor.

This year marked the 16th year for Celebration Generosity and it was one of our strongest with just over **800** households participating, **94** families giving for the first time at Community and **\$364,000** given.

In addition to our three long-standing Celebration Generosity partners and recipients, eight local ministry partners received **\$30,000** to advance the mission of Jesus:

**World Relief Aurora** - an Evangelical Christian humanitarian organization, and a leading refugee resettlement agency.

**Loaves & Fishes** - an anti-poverty, hunger relief agency serving food and leadership services throughout DuPage & Will County.

**Hessed House** - a not-for-profit organization dedicated to feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and providing shelter for the homeless.

**Lincoln Park Community Services** - serving adults across Chicago who are at-risk of or are currently experiencing homelessness

**Downers Grove Area FISH** - a local food pantry serving residents of Downers Grove who are experiencing food insecurity.

**Reclaim 13** - committed to reclaiming the lives of children impacted by sexual exploitation.

**Wayside Cross Ministries** - Christ-centered shelter and recovery center

**CASA Kendall County** - advocates for the best interest of children who have experienced abuse and neglect

# NEWTHING CHICAGOLAND

NewThing Chicagoland Movement’s mission is to catalyze multicultural church planting networks to transform Chicagoland. We do this by forming Networks of churches, approximately 4 to 6 churches, that collaboratively plant new churches together. Since 2019, a total of **10** Networks have helped plant **62** new churches all across Chicagoland!

One of the newly formed Networks is led by Tara Beth Leach, Lead Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran and Aubrey Sampson, Co-Lead Pastor of Renewal Church. This Network is focused on raising up female lead planters and we couldn’t be more excited about it!

Rafael Polepaka leads one of our more recent church plants. Rafael and his team are focused on reaching the Telegu community in Little India, in West Rogers Park. They were sent to launch this new

church because of the missional outreach of Sabkah Sahaara, Park Community Church.

Another leader, Eliezer Buenos, was sent by our Spanish-Speaking Network to plant a Spanish-Speaking church in Aurora. This new church, Punto Connexion (Connection Point), was also equipped by COMMUNITY’s MicroChurch Ministry as NewThing Chicagoland and COMMUNITY collaborated on this project.

Ron Childers is also another church planter being sent by our West Suburbs Network, co-led by The Compass Church and Christ Church of Oakbrook.

Thank you COMMUNITY for being a multiplying church. Your investment in NewThing Chicagoland is helping even more people find their way back to God all over Chicagoland.

In early 2022 NewThing Chicago started dreaming about starting more Networks in different languages. We gathered with some local pastors in Aurora IL and started casting vision to form a Hispanic Network. Out of that network, we knew Eliezer had the desire to start a new church he called Punto Conexion (Connection Point). He went through Community’s MicroChurch training and started to live out on mission. The network then got together to support him in different ways. The network was able to take advantage of a matching grant Thrivent was giving and came together to gift him seed money for the church. He also had the need for space and Community Aurora opened up their doors to help him in his church plant. Eliezer and his planting team also went through the Reproducing Leaders Catalyst and now he is on a good trajectory to develop more leaders. God has been at work at Punto Conexion and Eliezer always says: **“I do not want to do this alone, I am glad to be doing this with friends on mission.** Being part of a network has been the catalyst for reproducing at every level.”



**learn more**  
[newchurcheschicago.com](http://newchurcheschicago.com)

# COMMUNITY CARES

Our Community Cares teams are continuing to focus on the areas of poverty, incarceration, education, and racial reconciliation. We're striving to help restore God's dream for the world by advocating for the vulnerable and the marginalized while encouraging people to see all brothers and sisters in the image of God.

In June, hundreds of people across our locations volunteered and collaborated with more than 20 different organizations for Summer Serve. We united people to be a catalyst for restoration in our communities! For Sarah Choomchaiyo, leading a Kids Camp in Joliet as part of Summer Serve was **"so much fun - bringing the Bible stories to life with costumes and props...It was a powerful week, seeing kids worship and meeting their families."**

Our LivingUNDIVIDED team has worked over the past year to host four cohorts focused on racial understanding, healing, and solidarity. Cohort leader Rich Mealle believes our LivingUNDIVIDED groups enable COMMUNITY to "embody God's passion and call for us to do the important work of racial reconciliation, relationship building, justice and healing." Rich chose to be a facilitator this year because he believes "as Christ followers, racial reconciliation, justice, and healing need to be part of who we are each day. We are called to it and need to develop a heart for it."

In the fall, Celebration Generosity supported our local partners by providing over \$30,000 that will impact the valuable work they are doing. Partners from each of our locations included Fish Food Pantry, Hesed House, Kendall County CASA, Lincoln Park Community Services, Loaves & Fishes, Reclaim 13, Wayside Cross, and World Relief. We look forward to deepening the roots of these partnerships in the future!



 **learn more**  
[communitychristian.org/cares](https://communitychristian.org/cares)



## IN PERSON

**1,960**

Adults in  
Groups & Teams

**530**

Kids' City  
weekly average

**2,116**

Adult services  
weekly average

**447**

Student Community  
weekly average

## COMMUNITY ONLINE

**2,384**

Weekly Digital Engagement

**860**

Weekly Service Attendance

**giving back  
to God**

Jesus Mission  
**\$6,159,000**

GIVING TUESDAY  
**\$321,000**

CELEBRATION  
GENEROSITY  
**\$364,443**

*Thank you* **COMMUNITY**

# RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS

## REACH 48.3%

Reaching those who are far from God

Operations

Expressions

Facilities

Ministries

Capital

## RESTORE 21.2%

Restoring God's dream for the world

Community Cares

Community Freedom

Philippine Frontline Ministries

Cars of Hope

Benevolence

Global Ministries

## REPRODUCE 30.5%

Reproducing the mission in others

NewThing

New Ventures

MicroChurches



connect with  
**COMMUNITY**

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