



# *Open Hearts Award*

**Creating Access and Inclusion in Worship**

## **OPEN HEARTS AWARD NOMINATION FORM**

**Congregation's Information**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Illinois County \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Pastor or Rabbi \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation email \_\_\_\_\_

Total Members \_\_\_\_\_ Average Weekly Attendance \_\_\_\_\_

Date Congregation Founded \_\_\_\_\_

### **Applicant's Information**

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's email \_\_\_\_\_

### **People First Language**

When writing or speaking about people with disabilities, words should be chosen with care in order to promote dignity. It is more respectful to focus on the person first rather than his or her disability. For example, rather than saying "the disabled," say "a person with a disability," and rather than saying, "afflicted with blindness," say "a person who is blind." To be considered for an award, Open Hearts entries must use people first language.

### **Open Hearts Award Grant Request**

Describe how, if chosen a winner, the Open Hearts Award of up to \$1,000 will help the congregation to expand inclusion efforts. Please attach your request to this entry form.

### **Essay**

In 300 words or less tell how your congregation uses best practices to welcome and include worshipers of all abilities in worship, ministries, fellowship, education and leadership roles at your House of Faith. Please attach your essay to this completed nomination form. Include photos.

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## Accommodations Provided

Check the accommodations your faith community provides so that all may participate.

- accessible parking       curb cuts       drop off area       ramps
- automatic doors       36 inch wide doorways       elevator       pew cutouts
- accessible altar       large print worship guides       accessible ambo or bimah
- accessible social hall       accessible offices       accessible meeting rooms
- assistive listening devices       sign language interpreters
- clearly marked accessible entrances       clearly marked accessible washrooms
- bright lighting in worship space       pews spaced 32 inches apart
- words like "accommodations provided" are a part of all event announcements
- access symbols are used in print materials
- people first language is used in homilies, print materials
- inclusive religious education available
- disability awareness training for staff       ushers and greeters trained in disability etiquette
- congregation is surveyed for needs
- other \_\_\_\_\_

## Participation by Worshipers of All Abilities

Members who have disabilities are involved in the following ministries:

- clergy       deaconate       altar server/acolyte       choir       usher
- greeter       gift bearer       religious educator       leadership council
- communion minister       religious education student       teen group leader
- teen group member       day school student       men's or women's clubs
- other \_\_\_\_\_

## Certification Statement

I certify that the information provided in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Pastor or Rabbi \_\_\_\_\_

## Submission

Mail this completed application form, your request for a \$1,000 Open Hearts Award grant and your essay to Pathways Awareness Foundation, 150 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60601, fax to 1-888-795-5884 or email to friends@pathwaysawareness.org. Photos can accompany the Open Hearts Award nomination. **Deadline for nominations is August 1.**

Pathways Awareness reserves the right to determine criteria for evaluating entries and selecting award recipients. The program is administered subject to official rules. For official rules, send a self addressed stamped envelope to Pathways Awareness.