

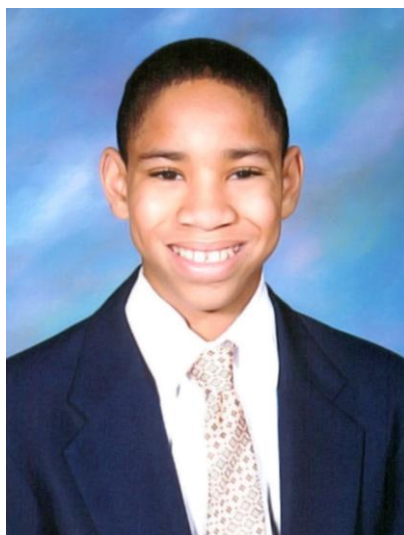
Open Hearts

Open Minds

Access and Inclusion in Worship Newsletter

Pathways Open Hearts Awards Deadline August 1

The **Pathways Awareness Open Hearts and Junior Open Hearts Awards** (for children age 5 to 18 years) offer cash grants of up to \$1,000 to congregations in Chicago and across the U.S. for access and inclusion projects.



Eleven year old Demetri Chiagouris won a \$1,000 Junior Open Hearts Award for his church

Eleven year old Demetri Chiagouris nominated his church for a 2009 Junior Open Hearts Award. Demetri is an altar server, choir member and Junior Knight of St. Peter Claver at St. Felicitas Roman Catholic Church.

St. Felicitas has modified washrooms for access, upgraded an exterior entrance ramp and installed a ramp to the sanctuary. The \$1,000 grant was used to upgrade wireless microphones.

Last year Demetri spoke at all Masses on Inclusion Awareness Day in honor of his Junior Open Hearts Award grant.

“St. Felicitas has been my church since birth. I was baptized and received my First Communion here. I was born

prematurely and diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. The right side of my body is weaker than my left side and I have difficulty walking. However, I participate as an altar server and have the full support of the parish. All of our activities at St. Felicitas are open to everyone. Our congregation says ‘Yes, we can’ to all of our members,” wrote Demetri in his essay.

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Demetri Chiagouris
2009 Junior Open Hearts Award winner
St. Felicitas Catholic Church, Chicago

Nominate your congregation for an Open Hearts or Junior Open Hearts Award grant. **Deadline** for nominations is **August 1st**. Nomination forms are at www.InclusionInWorship.org or call 1-800-955-2445 for more information.

Final Call for RRF Grants for Access Projects is June 25

The **Retirement Research Foundation Accessible Faith Grant Program** offers grants of up to \$30,000 to Illinois congregations to make their facilities more accessible. **Deadline** for the final cycle of grants is **June 25, 2010**. Visit www.rrf.org or call 1-773-714-8080 for application forms and more information.

Open Hearts Round Table

The Pathways Awareness Open Hearts, Open Minds program is guided by the Open Hearts Round Table, an interfaith group of advisors. Clergy and laity from Roman Catholic, Jewish, Greek Orthodox and Presbyterian faith traditions support and advise the program.

Father Matt Foley has assisted the program as an advisory board member and is now an Army chaplain in Afghanistan. Our prayers are with Father Foley as he ministers to our soldiers.



Father Matt Foley, St. Agnes of Bohemia Roman Catholic parish, Chicago and Open Hearts advisory board member, says Mass for soldiers in Afghanistan.

Open Hearts Reaches Out to Ordained Clergy



Deacon Stephen Rynkiewicz and his wife Lupe, Most Blessed Trinity parish, Waukegan, at the Open Hearts workshop for newly ordained Deacons.

Open Hearts presentations this spring reached seminarians, newly ordained deacons and new pastors in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago. The workshops provide information on welcoming worshippers of all abilities in the areas of affirmation, communication and architecture. "The workshops offer great potential for transformation, reflection and changing our way of thinking," said Father Chris Ciomek, Director of Chicago Students, Mundelein Seminary.

Call 1-800-955-2445 to schedule an Open Hearts workshop.

Calendar of Events

Saturday, June 5, 2010

Pathways Center Walkathon, Glenview, IL
www.pathwayscenter.org

Friday, June 25, 2010

Deadline for Accessible Faith Grants,
www.rrf.org

Sunday, August 1, 2010

Deadline for Pathways Awareness Open Hearts and Junior Open Hearts Awards nominations, www.InclusionInWorship.org

October 10, 2010 (or an alternate fall date)
Inclusion Awareness Day

ABOUT PATHWAYS AWARENESS

Pathways Awareness is dedicated to early detection and early intervention for children with motor delays and inclusion in all aspects of life. The Open Hearts, Open Minds program provides information, educational materials and cash grants to promote access and inclusion in worship. For more information, please call 1-800-955-2445, write to 150 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60601 or visit www.inclusioninworship.org, www.pathwaysawareness.org and www.pathwayscenter.org.