

Open Hearts

Open Minds

Access and Inclusion in Worship Newsletter

Two Grant Programs Available for Access Projects

The **Retirement Research Foundation** has renewed its **Accessible Faith Grant Program** for 2010 to enable Chicago area houses of worship in Cook, Lake, and DuPage counties in Illinois to make their facilities more accessible. Grants of up to \$30,000 are available. Deadlines are **April 16, 2010** and **June 25, 2010**. A description of the program, application tips and forms are available at www.rrf.org/accessiblefaithgrantprogram.htm or call 773-714-8080. The program has awarded 102 grants to congregations totaling almost \$2.2 million.

Pathways Awareness is pleased to announce that in 2010 cash grants of up to \$1,000 are again available to congregations in Chicago and across the U.S. through the **Chicago area** and **National Open Hearts** and **Junior Open Hearts Awards** (for children age 5 to 18 years). Since 1997 Pathways Awareness has recognized 140 congregations and religious schools with over \$100,000 in cash grants to support efforts to provide accommodations and include worshippers of all abilities in houses of faith.

The Diocese of Rockville Center New York Ministry with Persons with Special Needs applied for a 2009 Open Hearts Award grant and used their grant to survey their 134 parishes for access and inclusion and to provide workshops on

how to include using the Pathways Awareness *Open Hearts*, *Open Minds*, *Open Doors* video and print materials.

North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, Highland Park, purchased materials to sensitize, educate and train synagogue staff and teachers in how best to include children of all abilities in their religious school with their 2009 Open Hearts Award grant.

“Automatic doors mean the same access for everyone.”

10-year-old John Mitchell
National Junior Open Hearts Award Winner
St. Catherine of Sienna
Franklin Square, New York

Ten-year-old John Mitchell of St. Catherine of Sienna Church in Franklin Square, New York won a National Junior Open Hearts Award grant for his parish to install automatic door openers on the Church and Parish Life Center. “It’s not right that someone who wants to come to Church can’t come in when they want. Automatic doors mean the same access for everyone,” wrote John in his nomination essay.

Deadline for Pathways Awareness 2010 Open Hearts Awards grants is **August 1st**. Chicago and national nomination forms for adults and children are at www.inclusioninworship.org or call 1-800-955-2445.

Inclusion Tip



Old St. Mary's Church, Chicago, provides accessible transportation to Sunday liturgy.

Providing transportation for members with vision loss or who use wheelchairs or walkers is a wonderful way for faith communities to say "all are welcome."

Old St. Mary's Church, Chicago, used their 2009 Pathways Awareness Open Hearts Award grant to upgrade their existing transportation program to include parishioners who use wheelchairs and walkers. Their grant helped defray the cost of upgrading their rental bus to a lift bus. They publicized the newly accessible program and inaugurated the new lift bus on Inclusion Awareness Day last fall, as pictured above.

Save the Date for Inclusion Awareness Day

Congregations are invited to celebrate ongoing access and inclusion efforts with special events, prayer and preaching on Inclusion Awareness Day, October 10, 2010. Alternate fall dates may be selected. Planning materials are available at www.inclusioninworship.org. Watch for new 2010 items later this year.

Calendar of Events

OPEN HEARTS WORKSHOPS

Monday, February 22, 2010

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago
Office of Catholic Schools Professional
Development Conference, Marian High
School, Chicago Heights, IL

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

Mundelein third year Seminarians at
Pathways Awareness, Chicago, IL

FUNDING DEADLINES

Friday, April 16, 2010

Friday, June 25, 2010

Deadlines for Accessible Faith Grants,
www.rff.org

Sunday, August 1, 2010

Deadline for Pathways Awareness Open
Hearts and Junior Open Hearts grants,
www.inclusioninworship.org

INCLUSION AWARENESS DAY

**Weekend of October 10, 2010 or
alternate dates this fall**

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.