

# Pathways Awareness Foundation

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## Pathways Awareness Offers Congregations Grants of Up to \$1,000 For Taking Steps to Include Worshippers of All Abilities

Since 1997, Pathways Awareness has distributed more than \$90,000 through its Open Hearts Awards program, granting funds to houses of worship that have taken action to include worshippers of all abilities and who have specific projects planned to improve accessibility and inclusion. Pathways Awareness is now calling for nominations for the annual Chicago area Open Hearts Awards and Junior Open Hearts Awards.

### Chicago Area Children's Junior Awards

Children ages 5 to 18 years old from Chicago, Illinois area congregations (*in Cook, Lake, Will and DuPage Counties*) can nominate their house of faith for a Junior Open Hearts Awards with an essay, drawing or computer presentation that shows how their place of worship welcomes and includes individuals of all abilities. Nominations must include a completed nomination form and tell how the congregation will use a grant of up to \$1,000 to expand inclusion efforts. Parents and teachers may facilitate the entry process or children can create entries on their own. Children are encouraged to use the *Different Gifts But the Same Spirit* lesson plans before creating their nomination. The plans are available for downloading from [www.inclusioninworship.org](http://www.inclusioninworship.org).

### Chicago Area Adult Awards

Chicago area congregations can nominate their congregation for an Open Hearts Award with a description of how their faith community uses best practices to welcome worshippers of all abilities. Nominations must include a completed nomination form and tell how the congregation will use a grant of up to \$1,000 to expand inclusion efforts.

Electronic photos illustrating inclusion efforts are encouraged with nominations.

**Deadline for all nominations is August 1st.** Awards are announced in the fall in conjunction with Chicago area congregations' Inclusion Awareness Days in October.

Mail nominations to Pathways Awareness, 150 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60601, fax to: 1-888-795-5884, or email to [friends@pathwaysawareness.org](mailto:friends@pathwaysawareness.org).

Examples of past award-winning efforts include placing Jewish Mezuzah at wheelchair height and purchasing an automatic door opener and providing accessible washrooms.

For more information about the awards and Inclusion Awareness Day and for Open Hearts Awards nomination forms call **1-800-955-2445**, visit [www.inclusioninworship.org](http://www.inclusioninworship.org), or email [friends@pathwaysawareness.org](mailto:friends@pathwaysawareness.org).