



Open Hearts Awards

Creating Congregations Where People of All Abilities Participate

OPEN HEARTS AWARD APPLICATION

Congregation's Information

Date _____

Congregation _____

Denomination _____

Congregation Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

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 why the participation of worshipers with disabilities is important to your congregation and explain the benefits received from including people with disabilities. Please attach your essay to this entry form.

-over-

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 1-312-893-6621 or email to friends@pathwaysawareness.org. Photos can accompany the Open Hearts Award application. Applications are accepted from Feb. 1 to May 1 each year. **Deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m. May 1.**

Pathways Awareness Foundation 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 Foundation.