

**Open Hearts****Open Minds****Open Doors****Creating Access and Inclusion in Worship Newsletter****Announcing the 2006 Open Hearts Awards Recipients**

Pathways Awareness Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of the 2006 Open Hearts Awards. The annual awards recognize Chicago area congregations for including worshipers of all abilities in active membership. The Junior Open Hearts Awards recognize children's contributions to the inclusion efforts of the faith community.

**2006 Open Hearts Awards****\$1,000 Award Winners:**

Church of the Holy Spirit Catholic Church (Schaumburg)

St. Agnes of Bohemia Catholic Church (Chicago)

**\$500 Award Winners:**

St. Columbanus Catholic Church (Chicago)

Prince of Peace Catholic Church (Lake Villa)

Temple Jeremiah (Northfield)

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church (Streamwood)

St. Domitilla Catholic Church (Hillside)

First United Methodist Church (Evanston)

St. Victor Catholic Church (Calumet City)

St. Damian Catholic Church (Oak Forest)

Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church (Chicago)

Old St. Patrick's Catholic Church (Chicago)

**Children's Junior Open Hearts Awards****\$1,000 Winners:**

St. Matthias Catholic School (Chicago)

St. John Brebeuf Catholic Church (Chicago)

St. Alphonsus Catholic Church (Lemont)

Winning congregations provide not only accessible facilities but welcoming environments where everyone can participate. "What I love best is the welcoming and open attitude of the entire synagogue to people of varied abilities. Accommodations are provided so that everyone feels at home and comfortable," says Michelle Meyers, of Temple Jeremiah.

**ABOUT PATHWAYS AWARENESS FOUNDATION**

Pathways Awareness Foundation was established in 1988 to raise awareness about early detection and therapy for infants with motor delays and the importance of inclusion in all aspects of life. The Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors Program provides information about inclusion in worship. For more information please call 1-800-955-2445, write to 150 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60601 or visit [www.inclusioninworship.org](http://www.inclusioninworship.org).

## **Congregations Observe Inclusion Awareness Days**

Each year Pathways Awareness Foundation invites congregations to celebrate Inclusion Awareness Day. The goal is to raise awareness to the gifts received when needs are accommodated and everyone can participate every day of the year.

This fall the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago as well as several Jewish congregations set dates for Inclusion Awareness Days.

**Holy Family Parish** in Inverness blessed a new ramp on September 25<sup>th</sup> and ran bulletin articles on inclusion prior to Inclusion Awareness Day and as a follow up the next weekend. **Am Yisrael Congregation** in Northfield designated the weekend of November 18<sup>th</sup> for their first Inclusion Awareness Shabbat. Inclusion Awareness Day Workbooks for Catholic and Jewish congregations are available to help with planning Inclusion Awareness Day. Visit [www.inclusioninworship.org](http://www.inclusioninworship.org).

Pathways Awareness Foundation  
150 N. Michigan Ave.  
Suite 2100  
Chicago, IL 60601

---

### **NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS**

- **2006 Open Hearts Awards Winners**
- **Inclusion Awareness Day 2006**
- **Inclusion Tips: Vision Loss**

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **INCLUSION AWARENESS DAY**

**September 25, 2006**

Roman Catholic parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago

### **OPEN HEARTS PRESENTATIONS**

**September 18, 2006**

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago Vicariate III, Deanery B meeting

### **Inclusion Tips: Vision Loss**

- Worshippers with vision loss appreciate being made aware of church furnishings. Offer to give a “tour” of your facilities, describing the layout of the worship space.
- Recruit young people from the congregation to read the weekly bulletin over the phone to members who have difficulty seeing. Personally offer the service to members and follow up to see how it is going.

Non-Profit Org U.S. Postage Paid Chicago, IL Permit No. 6765
--