

Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors

A newsletter of Pathways Awareness Foundation to promote inclusion in worship.

Announcing the 2002 Open Hearts Awards

Pathways Awareness Foundation is now accepting entries for the 2002 Open Hearts Awards. The Awards recognize Chicago-area houses of faith that show outstanding leadership in including persons with disabilities into all aspects of faith life. Awards of \$1,000.00 will be given to six congregations to recognize their achievements and to allow them to expand their inclusion efforts. To enter, please write a description (no more than 1-2

pages in length) of your congregation's inclusion efforts.

Entries should also include:

- Applicants name
- Name, address, telephone, and fax of applicants house of faith
- Name and signature of religious leader

Deadline is Friday, July 26, 2002.

Call 1-800-955-2445 for more detailed entry information.

Save the Date for Inclusion Awareness Day, September 29, 2002

Sunday, September 29, 2002 has been designated Inclusion Awareness Day in the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago. Parishes throughout the Archdiocese will celebrate the many ways they include persons with disabilities in worship, ministry, fellowship and learning every day of the year. Emphasis will be placed on the gifts that persons with disabilities bring to their faith communities. Congregations of all denominations are invited to celebrate their own observance. Materials to assist congregations with planning Inclusion Awareness Day are available at our website,



Blessing of Ramp, Inclusion Awareness Day 2001, Infant Jesus of Prague, Flossmoor, IL

www.pathwaysawareness.org.

We invite you to make this an annual event in your congregation! Call 1-800-955-2445 for additional free inclusion materials.

Inclusion Tip

Don't hide your accessible features under a basket! A big part of inclusion is publicizing access for all. St. Mary's, Buffalo Grove, used their 2001 Open Hearts Award to clearly mark their accessible entry with a new sign. How does your congregation publicize access?



New ramp sign at St. Mary's, Buffalo Grove

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Open Hearts
Awards
Further
Inclusion
Efforts

Pathways Awareness Foundation is committed to supporting congregations that welcome persons with disabilities into worship, ministry, fellowship and study. Pathways recognizes and funds inclusion efforts through the Open Hearts Awards for adults and the Junior Open Hearts Awards for children. Since 1998, thirty-nine interfaith congregations have received awards to further their outstanding inclusion efforts. Visit

www.pathwaysawareness.org for the complete list of winning congregations.

Pathways recognized **St. Paul of the Cross, Park Ridge, IL** for conducting a parish wide survey of needs and installing an elevator, a ramp with canopy, automatic door, accessible parking spaces and an entrance sign clearly indicating access. Their 2001 Open Hearts Award made possible the purchase of assistive listening devices for parishioners with hearing difficulties.



*St. Paul of the Cross,
Park Ridge, IL*

Living Springs Community Church in Homewood, IL won an Open Hearts Award for their FRIENDship ministry. The ministry provides supports so that meaningful participation is available to all. Volunteers produce videos to introduce nonverbal members of the congregation, modify Sunday school lessons, and personally invite persons with disabilities to serve as ushers. "There is more to access than modifying buildings. We need to look beyond the disability to the person created in God's image," Patti Powell, chair of FRIENDship ministry, states.