

Open Hearts

Open Minds

Open Doors

Access and Inclusion in Worship Newsletter

Congregations Observe Inclusion Awareness Days

Pathways Awareness Foundation invited Chicago area houses of faith to celebrate **Inclusion Awareness Day** the weekend of **September 30, 2007**. Congregations were asked to plan worship services, activities and bulletin articles that focus on the gifts received when worshippers of all abilities can participate. The goal was to raise awareness to the need for access and inclusion in worship every day of the year.

“Inclusion Awareness Day puts a face on the issue. It gets the heart involved.”

*Father William Tkachuk, pastor
Church of the Holy Spirit, Schaumburg*

Each year on Inclusion Awareness Day at Church of the Holy Spirit in Schaumburg, Regina Buchino gives a reflection on the limits she encounters as a person who uses a wheelchair. “Inclusion Awareness Day puts a face on the issue,” said Father William Tkachuk, pastor. “It gets the heart involved. People now notice things on

their own and carry over the message of inclusion into their daily life.”

Congregations use planning materials available at www.inclusioninworship.org to participate in the day. “I appreciate your resources because I do not have the time to research and develop materials on inclusion,” said Father Richard Yanos, pastor, Prince of Peace Catholic Church. Father Yanos distributed the Homily Hints from the Inclusion Awareness Day Workbook to celebrants and ran *How You Can Make a Difference* and an article on inclusion in the church bulletin. For more information call 1-800-955-2445 or visit www.inclusioninworship.org.



A mentor assists with presenting gifts at Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish on Inclusion Awareness Day.

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.

Announcing the 2007 Open Hearts Awards

Pathways Awareness Foundation is pleased to announce the 2007 Open Hearts Award winning congregations:

Ascension Church, Oak Park
Chicago Sinai Congregation, Chicago
Church of the Holy Spirit,
Schaumburg
Holy Family, Inverness
Holy Spirit Catholic Community of
Faith, Naperville
Mary Queen of Heaven, Cicero
Old St. Patrick's, Chicago
Prince of Peace, Lake Villa
St. Mary Star of the Sea, Chicago
St. Nicholas, Evanston

Open Hearts Award winning congregations submitted a nomination form to Pathways Awareness Foundation with a request for a grant of up to \$1,000 to expand their inclusion efforts. Winning congregations provide accessible environments and encourage the

active participation of members of all abilities in worship, religious education, ministries and leadership roles.

Nomination forms for Open Hearts Awards, Junior Open Hearts Awards for children and the National Open Hearts Award are available at www.inclusioninworship.org or call 1-800-955-2445. Deadline for all nominations in 2008 is July 1st.

Inclusion Tip: Hearing Loss

Providing a sign language interpreter for worship services and congregation events is important but if a congregant who is deaf has a death in the family, arranging for a sign language interpreter for the wake and funeral is truly a compassionate way to include members with hearing loss.

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NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- Inclusion Awareness Day 2007
- 2007 Open Hearts Awards Winners
- Inclusion Tip: Hearing Loss