

Open Hearts

Open Minds

Open Doors

Creating Congregations Where People of All Abilities Participate

Inclusion Representative Meetings a Success!

Inclusion Representatives from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago gathered in March to enthusiastically discuss progress, share ideas and hear Father Philip Horrigan of the Office of Divine Worship speak on "Resolving Barriers to Ministry" at six regional meetings. The Inclusion Representative program uses volunteers to assist pastors to welcome worshipers of all abilities into worship, liturgical ministries and leadership. For more information on starting an inclusion rep program visit www.pathwaysawareness.org.

Inclusion Awareness Day, September 25, 2005

Pathways Awareness Foundation has designated Inclusion Awareness Day on Sunday, September 25, 2005. Cardinal Francis George has issued a letter asking parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago to reflect on how well they include parishioners with disabilities. "We have made great strides in creating worshipping communities where people of all

abilities and their families can participate. I ask that you continue in your efforts to make your parish accessible and inclusive for everyone."

Bishop William Persell will ask parishes in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago to once again to observe October as Inclusion Awareness Month.

"I ask that you continue in your efforts to make your parish accessible and inclusive for everyone."

*Francis Cardinal George,
Archbishop of Chicago*

Faith communities of all denominations are invited to participate. If September 25 is not convenient, please choose another date to reflect on how well you accommodate worshipers with disabilities every day of the year. Letters from religious leaders endorsing the day will be posted at www.pathwaysawareness.org. Email your denomination's letter to friends@pathwaysawareness.org.

ABOUT PATHWAYS AWARENESS FOUNDATION

Pathways Awareness Foundation was established in 1988 to raise awareness about early detection, early intervention and inclusion for children and youth with physical challenges. The Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors Program promotes inclusion in worship. For more information please call 1-800-955-2445, write to 150 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60601, email friends@pathwaysawareness.org or visit www.pathwaysawareness.org.



Inclusion Rep, Mike Grady, is a lector, Minister of Care and catechist at Our Lady of the Ridge.

Meet an Inclusion Rep

Mike Grady believes that actions speak louder than words. As an Inclusion Rep at Our Lady of the Ridge parish, Mike keeps inclusion alive by being a visible presence in the ministries at his parish. Mike serves as a lector, Minister of Care and catechist. Mike is a husband and the father of two children, an eighth grader and a freshman in high school. Mike shows by his example that parishioners with disabilities can contribute gifts to their faith communities if accommodations are provided.

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

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Volunteer Meetings a Success**
- **Inclusion Awareness Day**
- **Meet an Inclusion Rep**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RETREATS

May 27- 29, 2005

Retreat for people with physical disabilities, Warrenville Cenacle, call 1-800-240-6702 to attend or volunteer.

June 3-5, 2005

Retreat for people with vision loss, Marytown, Libertyville, call 630-772-8268 to attend or volunteer.

OPEN HEARTS EXHIBITS

June 8-11, 2005

NCPD Conference, New Orleans, LA

EVENTS

Sunday, September 25, 2005

Inclusion Awareness Day, Open Hearts Awards to be announced

Inclusion Tip

The Retirement Research Foundation's Accessible Faith Grants deadline is August 1, 2005. Grants of up to \$25,000 are available to houses of worship for access projects. Visit www.rrf.org for applications.

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