

# Open Hearts

# Open Minds

# Open Doors

## Creating Congregations Where People of All Abilities Participate

### Call for Open Hearts Awards Nominations

Pathways Awareness Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2005 Open Hearts Awards. The annual awards program recognizes Chicago area congregations for outstanding efforts to include worshipers of all abilities into active membership. Awards of up to \$1,000 will be granted to winning congregations to allow them to expand their inclusion efforts.

The Junior Open Hearts Awards invite children to submit a completed Junior Open Hearts Award application along with an essay, drawing or computer presentation that shows how their house of worship welcomes worshipers of all abilities. Junior Open Hearts Awards entrants are encouraged to use the Different Gifts, But the Same Spirit lesson plans before preparing their entry. Download the plans at [www.pathwaysawareness.org](http://www.pathwaysawareness.org), click on *Open Hearts*.

Adult members of congregations are invited to submit a completed Open Hearts Award application and

an essay describing their congregation's inclusion efforts. Deadline for applications is May 1, 2005.

Call 1-800-955-2445 or visit [www.pathwaysawareness.org](http://www.pathwaysawareness.org) for more information and for Open Hearts Awards applications.

### Inclusion Awareness Day, September 25, 2005

Pathways Awareness Foundation has designated Sunday, September 25, 2005 Inclusion Awareness Day. St. Ann's church in Lansing participated in the event last year with a special liturgy. "On Inclusion Awareness Day, I became acutely aware of how my church should provide accommodations so that people of all abilities can participate in worship," said Annette Leber, parish Inclusion Representative. Plan to celebrate how your faith community welcomes worshipers of all abilities every day of the year. If September 25 is not convenient, please choose a date of your own. Find inclusive prayers, bulletin articles and more at [www.pathwaysawareness.org](http://www.pathwaysawareness.org).

#### ABOUT PATHWAYS AWARENESS FOUNDATION

Pathways Awareness Foundation was established in 1988 to raise awareness about early intervention and inclusion of 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](mailto:friends@pathwaysawareness.org) or visit [www.pathwaysawareness.org](http://www.pathwaysawareness.org).

## Join Our Volunteers

Over 125 parish Inclusion Representatives in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago will gather in March to discuss ways to make their congregations accessible to parishioners with disabilities.

Meetings are planned for:

**Tuesday, March 1, 1 to 3:00 p.m.**

St. Paul of the Cross (North)  
Park Ridge, IL

**Monday, March 7, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.**

Our Lady of the Ridge (Southwest)  
Chicago Ridge, IL

**Tuesday, March 8, 1 to 3:00 p.m.**

Infant Jesus of Prague (South)  
Flossmoor, IL

**Wed., March 9, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

Old St. Mary's (City)  
Chicago, IL

**Tuesday, March 15, 1 to 3:00 p.m.**

St. Mary of the Annunciation (North)  
Mundelein, IL

**Wednesday, March 16, 7 to 9 p.m.**

St. John of the Cross (West)  
Western Springs, IL

Father Philip Horrigan, Office of  
Divine Worship, will speak at the

meetings on "Resolving Barriers to Ministry". For more information or to RSVP by Feb. 21 call 1-800-955-2445.

"I am looking forward to attending a meeting and involving my parish in the Open Hearts program," said new Inclusion Rep, Regina Buchino. She and her husband will serve as Inclusion Representatives at Church of the Holy Spirit, Schaumburg, IL.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MEETINGS

**March 1- 16, 2005**

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of  
Chicago Inclusion Rep Meetings

### EVENTS

**Sunday, September 25, 2005**

Inclusion Awareness Day

## Inclusion Tip

Free Braille, large print and audiocassette materials, including Sunday Mass propers, are available to eligible individuals from the Xavier Society for the Blind. For information and applications call 1-800-637-9193.

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## NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Open Hearts Awards Call for Nominations**
- **Inclusion Awareness Day 2005**
- **Join Our Volunteers**