

Open Hearts

Open Minds

Open Doors

Celebrating Our Tenth Anniversary of Creating Access and Inclusion in Worship

Call for Open Hearts Awards Nominations

Pathways Awareness Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2006 Open Hearts Awards. The annual awards program recognizes Chicago area congregations for outstanding efforts to include worshipers of all abilities. Awards of up to \$1,000 will be granted to winning congregations to be used for inclusion efforts.

The Junior Open Hearts Awards invite children to submit an essay, drawing or computer presentation that shows how their house of faith welcomes worshipers of all abilities. A completed application form must accompany the entry. Children are encouraged to read the stories and do the fun activities in the *Different Gifts, But the Same Spirit* lesson plans before preparing their entry. Visit www.pathwaysawareness.org and click on *Open Hearts* for the plans.

Adults enter the Open Hearts Awards by completing the application form and describing inclusion at their House of Faith. May 1, 2006 is the deadline for all applications.

Call 1-800-955-2445 or visit www.pathwaysawareness.org for official application forms. Open Hearts Awards are announced in the fall on Inclusion Awareness Day!

May 1, 2006 is the deadline for Open Hearts Awards applications.

Inclusion Awareness Day, September 24, 2006

Pathways Awareness Foundation has designated the weekend of September 24, 2006, for congregations to celebrate Inclusion Awareness Day. Participate by planning activities and worship services that celebrate the gifts received when worshipers of all abilities are included at your House of Faith. Invite members of all abilities to begin ministries on Inclusion Awareness Day and continue their ministries throughout the year. Bless new access features, run special bulletin articles and preach about inclusion. Plan your event using the Inclusion Awareness Day Workbooks at 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 or visit www.pathwaysawareness.org.

Retirement Research Foundation Renews Accessible Faith Grants

The Retirement Research Foundation has announced funding for accessibility improvements in Houses of Worship. Grants will be awarded for up to 50% of a project's cost or \$30,000. Congregations located in Cook, Lake or DuPage Counties may apply. The full description of the program, application forms, and tips for completing the application are available on the foundation's website at www.rrf.org or by calling 773-714-8080. Deadlines for applying are April 14, 2006 and June 30, 2006. Grants will be announced approximately five months after each deadline.

Inclusion Tip

New Trier Township Advisory Committee on Disabilities commends the efforts of four places of worship that ensure access and inclusion for all in a report "Through God's Front Door". Call 847-446-8202 for copies.

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

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Open Hearts Awards Call for Nominations**
- **Inclusion Awareness Day 2006**
- **Accessible Faith Grants Available**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 1 to May 1, 2006

Open Hearts Awards Applications Accepted

April 22, 2006

10th Anniversary of Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Weekend of September 24, 2006

Inclusion Awareness Day

EXHIBITS AND WORKSHOPS

Feb 16-18, 2006

Catholic Festival of Faith, Stevens Convention Center, Rosemont, IL

March 11, 2006

Episcopal Diocese Ministry Fair, Nazarene Academy, LaGrange, IL

April 5 and 6, 2006

ARC of Illinois Convention, Hilton Hotel, Lisle, IL

MAY 18 – 20, 2006

Henri Nouwen Symposium, University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, Canada

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