

**Open Hearts****Open Minds****Open Doors****Creating Access and Inclusion in Worship Newsletter****2007 Open Hearts Awards  
Call for Nominations**

Pathways Awareness Foundation is pleased to announce that applications for the Open Hearts and Junior Open Hearts Awards are being accepted from February 1<sup>st</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup> 2007.

Adults may enter the Open Hearts Awards with a description of how their congregation welcomes persons with disabilities into worship, ministry, fellowship and study. Photos of accessible features may be included with the entry. Awards of up to \$1,000 will be given to congregations to recognize their achievements and to allow them to expand their inclusion efforts.

Children ages 5-18 enter the Junior Open Hearts Awards by creating a computer presentation, drawing or essay depicting how their place of worship welcomes persons with disabilities. Awards of up to \$1,000 will be granted to the child's house of worship for the purpose of expanding inclusion efforts.

Winners will be announced in

conjunction with Inclusion Awareness Day, September 30, 2007.

Completed applications must accompany all entries. Visit [www.inclusioninworship.org](http://www.inclusioninworship.org) for forms.

For more information about entering the Open Hearts Awards, call 1-800-955-2445 or visit our website [www.inclusioninworship.org](http://www.inclusioninworship.org) for past winners.



*First United Methodist Church in Evanston used their \$500 Open Hearts Award to purchase assistive listening devices for congregants who have difficulty hearing.*

**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 and educational materials 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](http://www.inclusioninworship.org).

## **Inclusion Tips**

- Keep inclusion before the congregation on a regular basis. Place a "blurb" in the bulletin the first weekend of every month. Visit [www.inclusioninworship.org](http://www.inclusioninworship.org) for Inclusion Awareness Day Workbooks of bulletin articles, prayers and stories about inclusion in worship.
- Publicize your inclusion meetings with "All are Welcome." Encourage people to attend. That is how you learn the needs of your congregation.
- Take a good look at your physical campus. Visit [www.inclusioninworship.org](http://www.inclusioninworship.org) for a walk-through access survey. There are many things that can be done that don't cost a lot of money.

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## **NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Call for Open Hearts Awards Nominations**
- **Inclusion Tips**
- **Accessible Faith Grants**

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **OPEN HEARTS PRESENTATIONS**

**Sat. Feb. 17, 2007**

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago Leadership Day, Maria High School, Chicago

**Tuesday, March 6, 2007**

National Interfaith Coalition on Aging Conference, Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago

### **Retirement Research Foundation Renews Accessible Faith Grants**

The Retirement Research Foundation has just announced it will renew its Accessible Faith Grant Program to enable Chicago area houses of worship to make their facilities more accessible. Grants of up to \$30,000 are available. Grants may be used for platform lifts, permanent ramps, or restroom renovations. Application deadlines are April 13, 2007 and June 29, 2007. Visit [www.rrf.org](http://www.rrf.org) for application forms or call 773-714-8080.

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