

Open Hearts

Open Minds

Open Doors

Inclusion In Worship Newsletter

\$1,000 Cash Grants for Access and Inclusion Efforts!

Pathways Awareness Foundation is now accepting nominations for the Chicago area **Open Hearts Awards** and **Junior Open Hearts Awards** and the **National Open Hearts Awards** for congregations outside the Chicago, Illinois area. **Deadline for nominations is July 1, 2008.** Grants of up to \$1,000 will be awarded to winning congregations for the purpose of expanding inclusion efforts.

Chicago area congregations can nominate their faith community for an **Open Hearts Award** with an essay describing how their faith community uses best practices to welcome worshippers of all abilities and how the congregation will use a grant of up to \$1,000 to expand inclusion efforts. Photos can be included.

Children ages 5-18 from Chicago area congregations can nominate their house of faith for a **Junior Open Hearts Award** with a computer presentation, drawing or essay depicting how their place of worship

welcomes members of all abilities. A description of how a grant of up to \$1,000 will be used to further inclusion is also required. Grants will be awarded to the child's congregation. Parents and teachers can facilitate the entry process or children can create entries on their own.

Congregations outside the Chicago, Illinois area can nominate their place of worship for a **National Open Hearts Award** with a video or series of photos showing how their congregation uses best practices to welcome and include worshippers of all abilities and how they would use a grant of up to \$1,000 to expand their inclusion efforts. One grant of up to \$1,000 will be awarded annually.

A completed nomination form must be submitted with all nominations. Call 1-800-955-2445 or visit www.inclusioninworship.org for nomination forms and submission instructions.

Awards will be announced on Inclusion Awareness Day, September 28, 2008.

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.

Retirement Research Foundation Renews Accessible Faith Grants

The Retirement Research Foundation has renewed 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 11, 2008** and **June 27, 2008**. Visit www.rrf.org for applications or call 773-714-8080.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OPEN HEARTS PRESENTATIONS

Saturday, February 2, 2008

Open Hearts presentation at the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago Leadership Day, Guerin High School, River Grove, IL

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Open Hearts workshop for Mundelein Seminarians at Pathways, Chicago, IL

INCLUSION AWARENESS DAY

Weekend of September 28, 2008

Congregations are invited to celebrate their access and inclusion efforts!

Inclusion Tip

Train clergy, ushers and lay leaders as role models to include and welcome worshippers of all abilities and their families. Download the *Guidelines for Ushers and Lay Leaders* handout from the Inclusive Congregation Toolkit at www.inclusioninworship.org and plan a training session using the *Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors* DVD. Call 1-800-955-2445 to order the DVD set with Idea Guide.



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NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- **\$1,000 Cash Grants for Inclusion Efforts**
- **Inclusion Tip**
- **Accessible Faith Grants**