

Open Hearts**Open Minds****Open Doors****Inclusion In Worship Newsletter****Inclusion in Worship Trainings Announced**

Pathways Awareness is pleased to announce the following training opportunities for parish Inclusion Representatives and other interested individuals:

Inclusion Comes from the Heart

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

Church of the Holy Spirit

1449 W. Bode Road

Schaumburg, IL 60194

The Miracle of Inclusion

Thursday, June 5, 2008

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Old St. Mary's

1500 S. Michigan Ave.

Chicago, IL 60605

Creating the Inclusive Faith Community

Fall date TBD

Catholic Theological Union

5416 S. Cornell

Chicago, IL 60615

Trainings are designed to help attendees to welcome and include

worshippers of all abilities into all aspects of faith life. Come share successful inclusion strategies, ask questions and receive valuable handouts. All meeting places are accessible. To register, email friends@pathwaysawareness.org or call 1-800-955-2445.

Pathways Awareness Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors Inclusion Reps are also invited to participate in the National Catholic Partnership on Disability web seminars:

Catechesis with Children/Youth with Disability Part 1

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Catechesis with Children/Youth with Disability Part 2

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Register in advance at www.ncpd.org. Instructions on accessing the web seminar with your computer will be emailed to registered participants. Pathways Awareness Inclusion Representatives are exempted from the \$30 fee for each seminar.

ABOUT PATHWAYS AWARENESS

Pathways Awareness was established in 1988 to raise awareness about early detection and early 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 Pathways Awareness, 150 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60601, email friends@pathwaysawareness.org or visit www.inclusioninworship.org.

Looking for Funding for an Access Project?

Nominate your house of faith for a Pathways Awareness Open Hearts Award or have the children in your faith community submit a nomination for a Junior Open Hearts Award for grants of up to \$1,000 to fund congregational inclusion efforts.

Hollister Bundy nominated his church, First Methodist in Evanston, for an Open Hearts Award. He is proud to be a member of a church where inclusion is a priority.

A major renovation at **First Methodist in Evanston** provided automatic doors, clearly marked accessible entrances, an elevator and accessible pews. Members of all abilities serve in leadership roles and inclusive religious education is available to all students. The \$500 Open Hearts Award was used to offset the cost of assistive listening devices.

Making everyone feel welcome is part of the mission of **St. Mary Star of the Sea** Catholic Church in Chicago. Pew cutouts and wider spaced pews in the church and a chair lift in the social hall are provided. Members with disabilities serve as lectors, ministers of communion, ushers, choir members and altar servers.

The congregation wanted to provide hand rails for older liturgical ministers who had difficulty with the stairs to the altar. They nominated their church for a Pathways Awareness Open Hearts Award and their cash grant was used to construct hand rails to the altar.

Tell us how your congregation accommodates worshippers of all abilities and receive a cash grant to help fund additional inclusion efforts. A list of over 115 winning congregations, nomination forms and guidelines are available at www.inclusioninworship.org or call 1-800-955-2445. Deadline for nominations is July 1, 2008.

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NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- Inclusion Trainings Announced
- Funding for Access Projects