

**Open Hearts****Open Minds****Open Doors****Inclusion In Worship Newsletter****Call for Nominations for Cash Grants for Inclusion**

Pathways Awareness is now accepting nominations for cash grants of up to \$1,000 for the **Nationwide and Chicago area Open Hearts Awards** and **Junior Open Hearts Awards**.

Congregations outside Cook, Lake, Will or DuPage counties in Illinois may apply for the nationwide awards.

To nominate your congregation for a Chicago area or national grant, submit a completed nomination form, along with a description of congregational inclusion efforts and a request for funding for a specific planned access or inclusion project. National nominations must include a video or photos of their inclusion efforts. Chicago area congregations are encouraged to submit photos.

Parents and teachers may facilitate Junior Open Hearts Awards nominations or children ages 5-18 can complete the nomination form and write an essay, create a computer presentation or draw a picture about inclusion at their house of faith on their own. Children are encouraged to use the *Different Gifts But The Same*



*2008 National Junior Open Hearts Award winner, Our Lady of Sorrows Mission, Seboyeta, New Mexico*

*Spirit* lesson plans before creating their entry. Download the plans at [www.inclusioninworship.org](http://www.inclusioninworship.org). National Junior nominations must include a video or a series of photos that show how their congregation welcomes and includes individuals of all abilities.

Nomination forms, guidelines and more information are available at [www.inclusioninworship.org](http://www.inclusioninworship.org).

Send nominations to Pathways Awareness, 150 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60601, fax to: 1-888-795-5884, or email to [friends@pathwaysawareness.org](mailto:friends@pathwaysawareness.org).

**Deadline for nominations is August 1st.** Questions? Call 1-800-955-2445.

**ABOUT PATHWAYS AWARENESS**

Pathways Awareness 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).

## **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. Application deadlines are **April 17, 2009** and **June 26, 2009**. Visit [www.rrf.org](http://www.rrf.org) for applications or call 773-714-8080.

## **Web Seminar on Inclusion**

The National Catholic Partnership on Disability is hosting a web seminar, *Access to Liturgical Spaces*, on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. The \$30 fee is waived for Inclusion Representatives from the Archdiocese of Chicago. Visit [www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org) to register. Gather parish leaders around a computer to receive valuable information about creating barrier free liturgical spaces.

## **Save the Date: Inclusion Awareness, Oct. 11, 2009**

Caring congregations intentionally include worshippers of all abilities every day of the year. Pathways Awareness invites Chicago area congregations to celebrate their ongoing access and inclusion efforts on **October 11, 2009**, or a convenient date this fall. For more information watch [www.inclusioninworship.org](http://www.inclusioninworship.org).

### **Inclusion Tip**



*Pew cutouts throughout the worship space say all are welcome.*

Open the ends of several existing pews so that worshippers using wheelchairs may be seated with their families and friends throughout the assembly rather than in a segregated section.

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### **NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS**

- **\$1,000 Cash Grants for Inclusion Efforts**
- **Celebrate Ongoing Inclusion Efforts Oct. 11, 2009**
- **Accessible Faith Grants**