

Open Hearts

Open Minds

Access and Inclusion in Worship Newsletter

Pathways Foundation Open Hearts Awards



The ramped entrance and piazza provide access to worship and fellowship at the 2010 Open Hearts Award winning St. Patrick Catholic Church in Lexington, Virginia.

Pathways Foundation recognized sixteen congregations in the Chicago area and across the United States with Open Hearts Awards grants in 2010.

“Thank you for supporting our efforts to make everyone welcome. Renovating and expanding our aging church offered a marvelous opportunity to make it fully accessible,” said Father Edward Kealey, Ph.D., pastor of St. Sylvester Roman Catholic Church in Medford, New York. The church broke ground on a renovation project this summer. The main entrance was lowered to ground level and a two-stop elevator with extra-large cab to accommodate wheelchairs was installed. The elevator takes parishioners up seven feet to the worship area and down to a

basement meeting room. Father Kealey rejected a recommendation to install a less expensive, limited use lift instead of the full-size elevator. “Everyone deserves truly good and attractive equipment,” said Father Kealey. Accessible washrooms are also part of the renovation plan. Father Kealey announced the \$1,000 grant from Pathways Foundation at the congregation’s celebration of Inclusion Awareness Day on October 10, 2010.

“Thank you for supporting our efforts to make everyone equally welcome.”

Reverend Edward Kealey, Pastor
Church of St. Sylvester
Medford, New York

Following a Pathways Foundation seminar for clergy, Father Constantine Botsis, pastor, St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, Niles, IL, began annual Inclusion Awareness Sundays to better educate his parishioners about the need for access to worship. Through a parishioner’s generosity, the porch and sidewalk on the front of the church was replaced with a ramp. The beautifully concealed, heated ramp enhanced the main entrance but was not visible to all. The Open Hearts Award grant will be used to install signage to publicize the ramp and welcome everyone to the church.

Open Hearts Awards (Cont'd.)

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church, Westchester, IL recently installed accessible parking places, curb cuts, an automatic door opener and modified a washroom for accessibility. Their \$1,000 Open Hearts Award grant was used to pave a grassy area adjacent to their accessible parking places. Parishioners who use wheelchairs now have easier access to the sidewalk leading to the church entrance.

Visit www.InclusionInWorship.org for a complete listing of the Pathways [Open Hearts Award winners](#) and for [nomination forms](#). Deadline is **August 1** each year.

Accessible Faith Grants

The Retirement Research Foundation Accessible Faith Grants help Chicago area houses of worship fund accessibility projects. This year the program has expanded to six Chicago counties: Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, and McHenry. Applications are due **March 1 to June 1, 2011**. Grants are available for up to \$30,000 or 50% of the project cost. [New 2011 application forms](#) are at www.rrf.org or call 773-714-8080.

Calendar of Events

Saturday, February 26, 2011

Open Hearts workshop, Leadership Day, Maria High School, Chicago

March 1 to June 3, 2011

Deadline for RRF Accessible Faith Grants www.rrf.org

ABOUT PATHWAYS FOUNDATION

Pathways Foundation promotes early detection, early intervention and inclusion for children with motor, communication, feeding and sensory issues. *Open Hearts*, *Open Minds* provides educational materials and cash grants to promote access and inclusion in worship. Call 1-800-955-2445, write to 150 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60601 or visit www.InclusionInWorship.org, www.PathwaysAwareness.org, www.PathwaysCenter.org.

Inclusion Awareness Days



Bryan Nash participates as an altar server at his church.

Congregations from Chicago to New Jersey joined Pathways Foundation in celebrating Inclusion Awareness Days this fall.

At Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, Glenview, IL, Bryan Nash served Mass on Inclusion Awareness Day,

Oct. 17, 2010. His photo, commemorating Inclusion Awareness Day in the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, graced the front page of the October 24, 2010 issue of the diocesan Catholic New World newspaper.

On Nov. 21st, Ascension Greek Orthodox Church, Fairview, New Jersey celebrated their first Inclusion Awareness Day. Parishioners expressed appreciation for the moving event. [Read more](#) about their day at www.InclusionInWorship.org.

Friday, April 1, 2011

Open Hearts workshop, Mundelein Seminarians

Monday, August 1, 2011

Deadline for Open Hearts Award Nominations

October 9, 2011 (or your alternate fall date)

Inclusion Awareness Day weekend