

IDEAS FOR PROJECTS FOR TEAM BELONG AWARDS

Wondering how you can use a grant of up to \$1,000 to let worshippers of all abilities know that they truly belong in your faith community, religious school or faith formation program? Get ideas from TEAM Belong Award and Junior TEAM Belong Award winners.

Make Your Ambo Accessible

An accessible ambo allows open space beneath a height adjustable reading table so that wheelchair foot plates clear the supporting structure. Children and taller or shorter adults also benefit from an accessible, height adjustable ambo. Photo courtesy of Tortorelli Creations, www.tortorelli.com.



Old St. Mary Catholic Church, Chicago, a 2009 Open Hearts Award winning congregation created a small ambo and adjusted the microphone to accommodate a parishioner to proclaim the Word at Mass.



Make Your Bimah Accessible



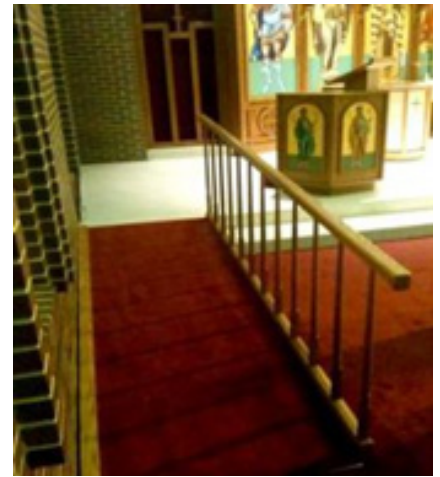
A lift to the bimah at Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah, Wilmette, IL, a 2015 TEAM Belong Award winning synagogue, accommodates congregants



A ramp to the bimah at Temple Beth El, Northbrook, IL, a 2017 TEAM Belong Award winning congregation, allows everyone to participate in worship services.

Make Your Altar Accessible

A ramp to the altar allows parishioners to venerate and view the articles on display during Holy Week services at 2009 Open Hearts Award winning St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church, Aurora, IL.



A railing to the altar assists lectors and ministers of communion at St. Mary Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church, Chicago, IL, a 2010 Open Hearts Award winning congregation.



Make Your Worship Space Accessible



2010 Open Hearts Award winning Curè of Ars Catholic Church, Merrick, NY, created pew cut-outs by removing existing pews. Parishioners who use wheelchairs no longer sit in the aisles to participate in liturgy but now have a place to sit within the assembly.



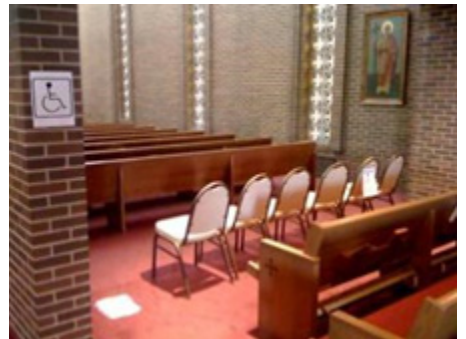
Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Wyoming, MI, a 2013 Open Hearts Award winning congregation, provides flexible, accessible seating areas in the front and back of the church so parishioners who use wheelchairs or walkers have a choice of where to sit with their families.

Make Your Worship Space Accessible (cont'd.)

Higher, padded arm chairs help worshippers who find it difficult to rise to stand from a regular height pew at 1998 and 2001 TEAM Belong Award winning Infant Jesus of Prague Catholic Church, Flossmoor, IL.



St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church, Aurora, IL, a 2009 TEAM Belong Award winner, removed pews to create an accessible seating area for parishioners who use walkers and wheelchairs.



Make Your Facilities Accessible



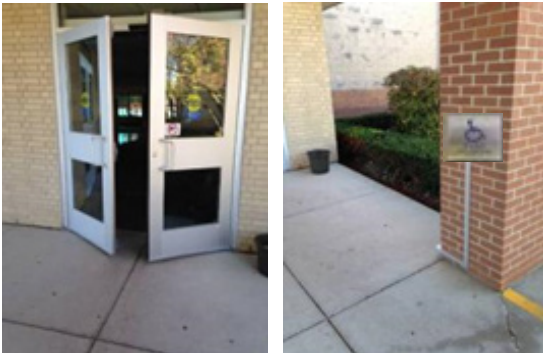
Accessible washrooms and an adult changing table make worship accessible at Faith Church, Dyer, IN, a 2016 TEAM Belong Award winning congregation.

Make Your Exterior Welcoming

A curb cut at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, New York, NY, a 2011 TEAM Belong Award winning congregation, helps members who use wheelchairs and public transportation to have easy access to the church building from the street.



Make Your Exterior Welcoming (cont'd.)



Incarnation Catholic Church, Palos Heights, IL, a 2012 TEAM Belong Award winning congregation, used their grant to purchase an automatic door opener for the church. The “Blessing for an Accessible Feature” was used by the pastor to bless the door opener during TEAM Belong Month.



The Church and social hall are accessible with an exterior ramp at St. Andrew’s Greek Orthodox Church, Chicago, IL, a 2003 TEAM Belong Award winning congregation.



An automatic door opener and Mezuzah at wheelchair height says “all are welcome” at Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County, Bethesda, MD, a 2008 Junior TEAM Belong Award winning congregation.



Creating accessible parking is a priority at St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church, Aurora, IL, a 2009 TEAM Belong Award winning church.

Make Your Exterior Welcoming (cont'd.)



Incarnation Catholic Church, Palos Heights, IL, a 2012 TEAM Belong Award winning congregation, used their grant to purchase an automatic door opener for the church. The “Blessing for an Accessible Feature” was used by the pastor to bless the door opener during TEAM Belong Month.



A canopied entrance with drop off area and an automatic door opener on exterior doors allows easy access for all at 2006 TEAM Belong Award winning Temple Jeremiah, Northfield, IL.

Provide Accommodations

Providing an individual, small chalice that is placed on the altar before Mass and is used for wine only accommodates a parishioner with celiac disease who cannot receive the host at 1998 and 2001 TEAM Belong Award winning Infant Jesus of Prague Catholic Church, Flossmoor IL.



Adapted altar server training for age appropriate servers with developmental disabilities accommodates individual needs and makes participation in this ministry available to all at 2008 TEAM Belong Award winning Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, Glenview, IL.



Provide Accommodations (cont'd.)

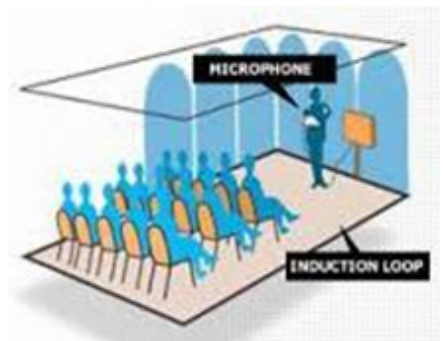
Mishkan Chicago, a 2017 and 2018 TEAM Belong Award winning congregation, provides sign language interpretation for high holidays with their TEAM Belong Awards grants.



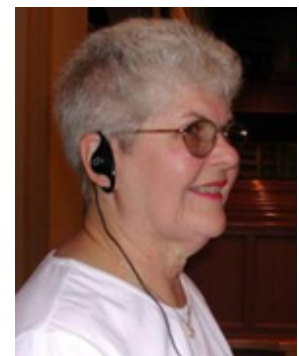
Fredericktown United Methodist Church, a 2018 TEAM Belong Award winning congregation, provided padded rockers for mothers with infants and for members with back and leg pain with their TEAM Belong Awards grant.



A 2016 TEAM Belong Award was used by St. George Catholic Church, Bourbonnais, IL to install a induction hearing loop system to project the sound system into parishioner's hearing aids and to provide headsets for all other members who had difficulty hearing at services.



Assistive listening devices are provided in the church and social hall at St. Catherine Laboure Catholic Church, Glenview, IL, a 2018 and 2017 TEAM Belong Award winner. A 2011 Junior TEAM Belong Award was used to modify a washroom for access.



Provide Accommodations (cont'd.)

The Commission on Mental Illness of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, a 2018 TEAM Belong Award winner, purchased Living Grace workbooks for a series of 16 week workshops to support parishioners with mental health concerns and their families.



Make Faith Formation Accessible to All



St. James in Arlington Heights, IL, a 2015 Open Hearts Award winner used their grant to purchase the Loyola Press Adaptive Finding God Curriculum to include children of all abilities in their faith formation program. A 2018 Open Hearts Award grant was used to remodel the church for access.



St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Des Plaines, IL used a 2009 TEAM Belong Award to purchase craft and sensory materials to start a St. Stylianos Children's Ministry to welcome children of all abilities to faith formation.

Welcome All Students to Parochial School

Regina Dominican High School, Wilmette, IL, purchased academic planners, audible countdown timers, Executive Functioning Workbooks and testing materials for students with learning differences with a 2017 TEAM Belong Award.

