

March is Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Isaiah 56:7 Calls us to welcome all people into our religious community: "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people". The community of God includes people with and without mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. People with disabilities have the same emotions, wants, needs, and desires "just like you."

People with mental retardation can be valuable employees, caring friends and contributing members of our community. They can be included in the life of your church or synagogue in many ways.

- Encourage people with disabilities to participate fully in the life of your faith community.
- Invite a disability service organization to provide a presentation on "disability awareness".
- Form an accessibility committee to explore changes, architectural and attitudinal, aimed at increasing your welcome to people with disabilities.