



(From left) Frank Considine of Winnetka, last year's honoree, presenting the Infnitec National Leadership Award to Shirley Ryan of Winnetka, with Maggie Daley, Shirley's son Corbett Ryan and Gay Girolami of Pathways Center. (Tom McCluskey Photography)

UCPA praises Pathways for national leadership

Pathways Foundation for Children was presented with the prestigious National Leadership Award by the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Chicago during a dinner June 24 at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel in Chicago.

The Glenview-based Pathways was praised for its commitment to educating parents, families and medical professionals about early detection and intervention and about the inclusion of children with physical challenges into regular activities.

The occasion was the Fourth Annual Infnitec Awards, named for UCPA Chicago's Infnitec project which aims to create access to technologies that allow people with disabilities to live, work and enjoy recreational activities independently.

Accepting the award for Pathways was Shirley Ryan of Winnetka, chair and co-founder with her husband Pat Ryan of Pathways. With her was her son and inspiration Corbett Ryan, as well as Maggie Daley, president of Pathways, and Gay Girolami, executive director.

"Pathways' name came from the belief that the brain



(From left) Verne Istock and James Lancaster of First National NBD Bank of Chicago, with John T. Trutter of Evanston, honorary chair of United Cerebral Palsy Infnitec Association. The bank received the 1996 Corporate Leadership Award.

has the ability to create new connections or pathways, if the old connection no longer works," Ryan said. "Science has since proven this theory correct and great progress has been made toward helping children with gross movement difficulties learn movement."

Pathways Center for Children, founded in 1986, is an outpatient clinic that provides 20,000 hours of physical, occupational and speech therapy each year and has provided graduate-level courses to more than 190

pediatric therapists who practice in hospitals and clinics through the Chicago area.

First Chicago NBD Corporation received the 1996 Corporate Leadership Award for its compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and its implementation of innovative employment programs for people with disabilities.

The dinner, chaired by Neil and Marge Hartigan, raised more than \$200,000 for UCPA's Infnitec project.