



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Just Kids Partners with New Jersey Audubon**

*After school care program expands its curriculum offering environmental education*

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**ATCO, NEW JERSEY** (May 24, 2019) – This school year, Just Kids, a before and after school care program, has partnered with New Jersey Audubon to expand its curriculum. An environmental educator, Emily Wilmoth, from New Jersey Audubon has visited each of the twenty-one Just Kids' locations to work with Just Kids staff, to provide exciting, engaging hands-on curriculum. Activities were designed specifically for the varied learning opportunities available in the environments around each school building. Some students learned about the diversity in nature through exploration, by getting to be detectives and discovering nature's superpowers. They then saw how these same characteristics of nature are seen in superheroes. Children also observed birds outside of their schools and learned about migration, nesting and raising young birds. The kids then used things found in nature to build nests, just like birds do.



*Pictured above is New Jersey Audubon Environmental Educator Emily Wilmoth with children from the Just Kids Janvier location as they began exploring nature around their very own school.*



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“We love to partner with other organizations to bring expertise directly to the children. This way Just Kids can provide an array of enrichment activities to inspire, interest, and teach them about the world in which they live and about themselves. New Jersey Audubon’s environmental education curriculum is so well done. The topics inspire inquiry, are hands on, and are well presented by Emily Wilmoth,” said Lorin Powell, Director of the Just Kids Program.



*A student from the Just Kids Janvier location enjoyed building a bird’s nest with materials found around the playground at school.*

Archway Programs believes it is important to invest time and resources to maximize the impact on the children served in Just Kids Program. For staff, this means modeling, encouraging, inspiring and providing opportunities for lifelong learning. A new partnership with New Jersey Audubon is one example of how this is being accomplished. Through this new partnership, each of Archway’s Just Kids’ locations has received two sessions of environmental education specific to each site. The New Jersey Audubon afterschool program is possible thanks to generous funding from donors.



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*Pictured above is Just Kids Supervisor Pat Bucher with children from the Just Kids Janvier location as they learn about superpowers in nature.*

Just Kids, an Archway Program (nonprofit), is located right in the school where your child is enrolled providing before and after school care in an engaging, comfortable and safe environment. Just Kids balances learning and fun while stimulating social and emotional development through cultivating academic curiosity. The Just Kids Program is available to school-aged children, starting at Pre-K up to eighth grade. Families in partnering school districts throughout the state of New Jersey can participate in Just Kids between the hours of 7:00 a.m. until the start of the school day, and from school dismissal time until 6:00 p.m. Just Kids offers several plans that add flexibility to family schedules and provides a cost-effective, loving, safe and secure environment where all children, including those with special needs, can learn and grow outside of the traditional school day. For more information about the Just Kids Program, please visit [www.justkidsprogram.org](http://www.justkidsprogram.org).

For more information on Archway Programs, visit [www.archwayprograms.org](http://www.archwayprograms.org).

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### ***About New Jersey Audubon***

*New Jersey Audubon is a privately supported, not-for profit, statewide membership organization. Founded in 1897, and one of the oldest independent Audubons, New Jersey Audubon is working to make New Jersey a better place for people and wildlife. New Jersey Audubon fosters environmental awareness and a conservation ethic among New Jersey's citizens; protects New Jersey's birds, mammals, other animals, and plants, especially endangered and threatened species; and promotes preservation of New Jersey's valuable natural habitats. For more information, visit [www.njaudubon.org](http://www.njaudubon.org).*

### ***About Archway Programs***

*Since 1965, Archway Programs has been meeting the individualized needs of thousands of families throughout the state of New Jersey. Archway Programs is a diverse, non-profit, human services organization which includes approved private schools for students with disabilities in addition to several model programs providing unmatched services. Built on a solid foundation of core values, providing safety, possessing compassion and promoting individuality, Archway Programs strives to improve the life of every individual served. Our goal is to ensure that each individual's needs are met and customized services are provided and partnered with passionate, committed and talented professionals in a safe environment. Over 440 individuals are currently employed by Archway Programs and this dedicated and talented staff provides services to over 1,800 children and adults requiring individualized care. Please visit [www.archwayprograms.org](http://www.archwayprograms.org) for more information.*



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