

## SOUTH JERSEY NONPROFIT RAISES AWARENESS FOR IMPORTANT CAUSE

Archway Programs hosted its 8th Annual Cancer Awareness Walk on Wednesday, October 17th. This is a community-wide event where individuals served throughout all programs at Archway participated, as well as staff members and their families, to show their support. The walk took place at Archway's main campus lake, and those who participated walked around the lake a couple times at their own pace. Education Executive Director Education, Susan Lafferty, welcomed everyone.

The Evesham Township Fire Department and the Waterford Township Police Department were in attendance at the event, with fundraisers set up on both sides of the lake, and live music performed by students and Music Therapist from the Archway Schools. Once everyone finished walking, they enjoyed refreshments served by Archway staff volunteers, interacting with some new and familiar faces, and seeing the many items for sale which included: baked goods made by staff from the schools, holiday décor items handmade by a current Archway School student, fall plants from the Horticultural Program (part of Archway's Career Education Program), Cancer Awareness items, raffles and more.

Each year, the goal of the event is to educate others about cancer and raise funds to support individuals facing the fight against cancer. This year, the reason is a little more personal for Archway employees. The money raised will directly help support Archway employees and their families impacted by cancer and related medical issues they may be facing. When Archway Programs employees learned that some of their colleagues had been diagnosed with cancer, they donated their time and money to support fundraising efforts in addition to this annual event. The community effort may have seemed like just another fun awareness event but seeing the level of support of those who showed up and helped contribute proved that every penny raised was not just going to a research fund. Awareness was certainly brought, conversations were sparked, but the reactions of those supported by the event showed that Archway Programs employees have a strong bond, much like a family, and everyone came together for all of the right reasons.

"Helping others is something we all have in common here at Archway Programs. We have a strong community at Archway, and are dedicated to improve the life of every individual served. Archway Programs has created a family oriented culture and serving individuals in need includes supporting each other. Archway's mission is to provide unmatched services designed to meet the individualized needs of children and adults throughout New Jersey. We work with our communities to identify needs and help make a difference. Today's event is an example of how we take care of our Archway family, as we support those who have been directly impacted by cancer and are facing related medical issues," stated Shawn Gibson, Chief Operating Officer.

Unfortunately, cancer has impacted a number of employees and those served at Archway Programs, so this is something that hits close to home for many of our families. All proceeds from the fundraiser will help support Archway staff and their families who may be facing the challenges associated with cancer and any related medical issues.

"We have all been touched by cancer in some shape or form. It was wonderful to take part in such a fun and friendly fundraising event, while also making a real difference in the lives of those who work hard every day to give back to others. I am quite proud of our staff and clients for their community spirit in wanting to participate in activities that support such a good cause," Susan Lafferty, Education Executive Director explained. "Through these types of events, our clients not only get to interact with their non-typical peers but they also get an opportunity to see firsthand that they can make valuable contributions to their communities in many ways."

Students enjoyed getting up close and personal with a sensory-friendly firetruck, thanks to the Evesham Township Fire Department. The Waterford Township Police Department also came to the event to show their support. It means a lot to Archway Programs and the special needs community to have the support of the local police and fire departments. It gives individuals served throughout Archway Programs a chance to interact with emergency responders.

Employees from Archway Programs will be continuing to raise funds throughout the month of October for this cause. To learn more about how you can help please call 856.767.5757

