

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**South Jersey School Receives International Acknowledgment
For Excellence in Special Needs Education**

Danish company visits Archway Programs' headquarters in Atco to tour special needs schools

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ATCO, NEW JERSEY (January 19, 2018) – Archway Programs was honored to host Byhaveskolen representatives as they joined forces, shared innovative ideas and discussed industry trends on Tuesday, January 16th. Archway's administration sat down with the Danish special needs school educators to collaborate and gain outside perspective. Both organizations share similar goals in providing the best education and individualized care to students to prepare them for real life.

“Archway Programs believes that there is a place for everyone. We share the same goal, to meet the needs of each individual served, despite any challenges they may face. It's key that we establish camaraderie throughout the industry in order to keep moving forward,” said Marge Conner-Levin, Archway Programs' Chief Executive Officer.

Byhaveskolen is a special needs school in Svendborg, Denmark serving special needs children between the ages of six and eighteen years old. They heard about Archway Programs' schools and wanted to learn more about the successful model used. Karen Dalsgaard, Head of ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) Department, first reached out to Susan Lafferty, Archway Programs' Executive Director of Education, back in late 2017 inquiring about the organization asking to set up a meeting and see firsthand how the schools are run. Karen Dalsgaard and Marlene Pope, a teacher in the ASD Department, were traveling to New York for a conference and before they returned back to Denmark, they wanted to visit Archway to explore new ways to strengthen their students' skills, particularly transitioning from school to work.



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“At our school we are very interested in exploring new ways to strengthen our students and heighten their competences in their further life. After extensive research on Archway Programs and after visiting the schools I found the approach used to be very inspiring,” said Karen Dalsgaard, Byhaveskolen, ASD Department Head.

Like Archway, Byhaveskolen also focuses on each individual need of their students, dedicated to creating a life skills balance concentrated on functional academics and daily living skills.

“Our goal for the schools is that by the time each of our students graduate, they’ll be prepared for the next stage in life. This means having the right tools to be as independent as possible, making the right life choices and being contributing members of the community. We appreciate Karen and Marlene visiting to learn more about our programs and know that this is just the beginning of a long lasting international learning relationship,” said Susan Lafferty, Archway Programs’ Executive Director of Education.

Archway Programs has two schools serving special needs children ages three through twenty-one years old. The Lower School has been in operation since the early 1960s and the Upper School was established in the early 1970s. Both serve young children, teens and early adults throughout New Jersey and the schools are located in Waterford and Evesham Townships. Using a successful model unique to each school, children are provided with a safe, structured and compassionate atmosphere as Archway Programs’ staff discovers and builds on each child’s strengths and helps the kids overcome barriers by teaching coping and social skills.



Byhaveskolen guests: Karen Dalsgaard, Head of ASD Department, Marlene Pope, ASD Department/Teacher; With Archway Programs’ staff: Susan Lafferty, Executive Director of Education; Mark Letziano, Upper School Principal; Mike Graff, Lower School Principal; Marge Conner-Levin, Chief Executive Officer; Shawn Gibson, Chief Operating Officer; George Richards, Chief Financial Officer. Also pictured is Tine Hansen-Turton, Chief Executive Officer, Woods Services (Archway’s affiliate company).





Archway Programs' Executive Director of Education, Susan Lafferty and Mike Graff, Lower School Principal with Karen Dalsgaard, Head of ASD Department and Marlene Pope, ASD Department/Teacher, Byhaveskolen.



Students from Upper School assisted Ron Reid, Archway Programs' Career Center Job Coach and Home Economics Instructor, in preparing and serving lunch to our special guests before they finished their tour.



For more information on Archway Programs, visit www.archwayprograms.org.

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About Archway Programs

Since 1965, Archway Programs has been meeting the special needs of thousands of families throughout the state of New Jersey. It is a private, non-profit human services organization. Archway Programs maintains fifteen model programs where individuals with physical, emotional and neurological disabilities are partnered with passionate, committed and talented professionals in a safe environment. Archway Programs strives to improve the life of every individual we serve. Approximately 440 individuals are employed through Archway Programs throughout all of its programs, which provide services up to 1,800 students and adults with special needs. Please visit www.archwayprograms.org for more information.

