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Special Needs Students Inspired by Helping Local Cancer Patients

The Archway Schools joined forces to support fundraiser for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

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ATCO, NEW JERSEY (July 10, 2018) – Students from the Archway Schools were recently acknowledged as one of the Top Fundraising Schools in New Jersey by The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients, the Student Series fundraising program. This year, Archway's Upper and Lower Schools joined forces to raise money and support the cause. Together, both schools reached their fundraising goal, raising a total of \$1,158.00 all of which will go towards helping local cancer patients beat their disease and support blood cancer research. While raising funds, Archway students also raised awareness about service and philanthropy. This is the seventh year that Archway's Upper School has participated and the first year that the Lower School has joined in supporting the fight against blood cancer. The fundraiser took place throughout the month of May and the school received special recognition from The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society this past week for their participation and continued support in the Student Series fundraiser.

Staff members from each of the schools had Pennies for Patients Coordinators who were in charge of organizing the fundraising activities. This year's Pennies for Patients Coordinators from Archway's Upper and Lower schools were crucial to the program's success and their commitment to getting the students involved was inspiring for all to see. A special thanks to Kristine Henle-Blank, Careers Coach and Horticulture Instructor; Sandy Goc, Lower School Administrative Assistant; and Caitlin Lemma, Lower School Paraprofessional, for volunteering extra time out of their busy schedules and acting as this year's Pennies for Patients Coordinators.

"Our kids have been through a lot and are often the ones getting help. Hearing other people's stories of battling cancer I think was really eye opening for them. This was certainly a unique character building program for all of our students as they learned how they can impact others and demonstrate compassion. The more they learned, the more the students became personally invested in the cause. To get to see the students so inspired, wanting to do something for someone else and truly help others was a completely humbling experience," stated Kristine Henle-Blank, Careers Coach and Horticulture Instructor.

In addition, the Archway Schools successfully completed the Pasta for Pennies Program, which awards the top fundraising classroom with a celebration party including a pasta lunch, donated by the Olive Garden. Brett Tullo, Upper School Teacher and his students from Room 22 were awarded a Bronze Pennant level celebration party which includes an Olive Garden lunch for students and staff members. Rather than having



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the Olive Garden celebratory lunch for their hard work, students generously decided to forgo the lunch and donate it to someone who needed it more than they did.

“I feel confident that this fundraiser has taught my students and others at Archway how to give back and I hope this lesson sticks with them throughout their lifetime. Our students were so inspired being in a position to help others. My students all agreed that doing things for others is not only a good thing to do, but it also makes us feel good, as it connects us to others, creating stronger communities and helping to build a happier society for everyone,” said Brett Tullo, Upper School Teacher at Archway Programs.



This year's Pennies for Patients Coordinators (from left to right): Kristine Henle-Blank, Careers Coach and Horticulture Instructor; Brett Tullo, Upper School Teacher; Caitlin Lemma, Lower School Paraprofessional; and Sandy Goc, Lower School Administrative Assistant.

Students and staff from both schools participated in a variety of activities to raise money. Archway students collected donations, change, including bringing in their own piggybanks, to support The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society fundraiser. The Upper School held a ‘Car Wash for A Cause’ event for Archway staff members and a ‘Dine & Donate’ event at the on-campus Owl’s Nest Café to help the schools reach their fundraising goal. Students at Archway’s Lower School had a ‘Penny War Against Cancer’ event in which students brought in change to vote for the staff members that they wanted to see get wrapped with toilet paper. Lower School staff members – Mike Graff, Lower School Principal; Rich Lamazares, Physical Therapist; and Silvio DiCristo, Swim Instructor – had the most votes. Mr. Silvio told students that if fifty dollars was raised, he would also take a pie in the face. Mr. Rich and Mr. Mike jumped on board as well and since students met their goal, they earned the opportunity to pie the teachers in the face!



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Archway's Lower School students as they pie their teachers in the face after reaching their fundraising goal!



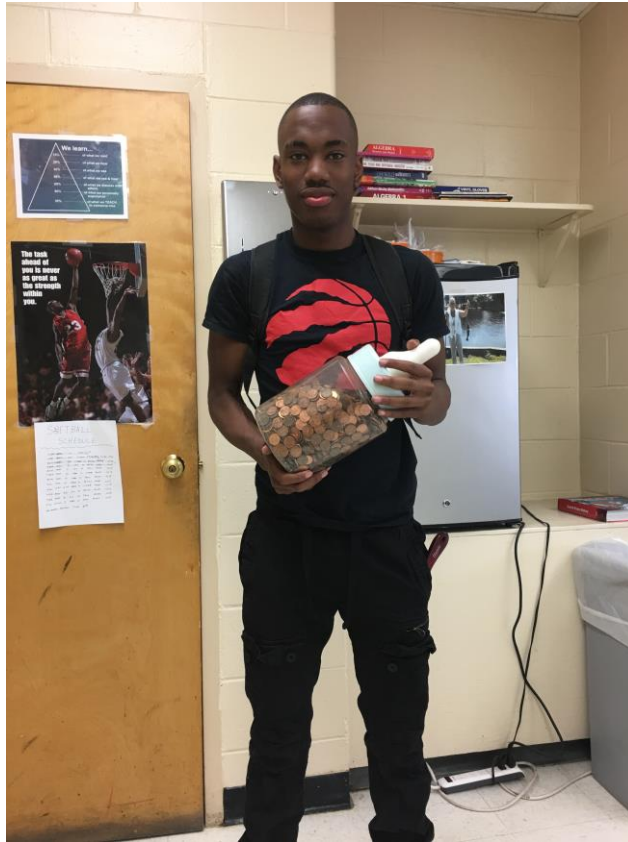
Mike Graff, Lower School Principal, is such a great sport!



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Jabril Martin, Upper School student, brought in his own piggybank to donate to the fundraiser.



Students hard at work at the 'Car Wash for A Cause' event supporting the Pennies for Patients fundraiser.



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Students and staff from both schools are already thinking of ideas to support next year's fundraiser to raise more money and inspire even more people in the community as it did for them.

Archway Programs has two schools serving special needs children, teens and young adults throughout New Jersey 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 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. This includes providing students with the skills needed to successfully transition from school to adult life. Students learn skills that will gain them "real world" employment through Archway's Career Education Program, which enables them to overcome their challenges and learn in the classroom and on-the-job, skills necessary to transition from school-to-work and offers a number of vocational and career training opportunities to its students in both the Upper and Lower Schools. Students are given the opportunity to gain this experience by participating in on-campus, off-campus job samplings, cooperative education, sheltered workshop phrases, classroom instruction and job placement. It also gives students who cannot be placed into a vocational/trade school an option, providing work-readiness skills, increased social and independent skills gained in a work environment.

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 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 for more information.



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