

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Students Visit Senior Center for a Special Mother's Day Activity

Archway students demonstrate their skills and teach residents how to make floral arrangements

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ATCO, NEW JERSEY (May 4, 2018) – Students from The Archway Schools' Horticulture Program visited the residents of The Fountains at Cedar Parke for a special Mother's Day Flower Arranging Demonstration. Under the direction of Horticulture Instructors Kristine Henle-Blank and Hannah Gunson, the students showed residents how to create beautiful Mother's Day Teacup Arrangements with colorful flowers and greenery. There was plenty of light-hearted conversation and socializing, as both students and residents shared stories, smiles and new found friendships. This was the second flower arranging demonstration by the Archway School students coordinated by both Horticulture Instructors, Careers Teacher Brooke Chmura, along with Susan Mantz, Activities Director of The Fountains at Cedar Parke.

“For our students, this was such a fun and rewarding experience. It helps the students build social and communication skills, form relationships and build their confidence. The work we do in the horticultural program is very therapeutic for most of the students, and it was really special for them to share that bond with the residents,” said Kristine Henle-Blank, Horticulture Instructor at Archway Programs.



Archway student Anthony Pirenoglu and Activities Director Susan Mantz, helping a resident find the perfect placement to complete her floral arrangement.



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Ms. Susan Mantz, Activities Director at The Fountains at Cedar Parke, said the event is great for the residents too. "It's just fun for them to be with the younger generation. They get so much enjoyment from having the students come. For many of them, it's like being in the classroom again," Mantz said.



Horticultural Instructor Kristine Henle-Blank with student Gavin Over, kicking off the Flower Arranging Demonstration.



Students Shannon Moore and Anthony Pirenoglu helping a resident put the finishing touches on her floral arrangement.



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Pat Weaver, a resident who was visiting with the students after the flower arranging demonstration said it gives her something to look forward to. She thanked the students for bringing a bit of sunshine into the lives of the older generation. When asked if she liked making the floral arrangement with the students she responded, “Oh yes, my cup runneth over.”



It brightened everyone’s day to see The Fountains at Cedar Parke residents so happy with their Mother’s Day Teacup Floral Arrangements.

“We love our relationship with The Fountains at Cedar Parke. It’s one of the local businesses we are fortunate to have in our Off-Campus Structured Learning Experience here at the schools. Students in Archway’s Career Education Program have worked at the senior center for many years in food services, maintenance, housekeeping, the hair salon; as well as participating in recreational areas which include arts and crafts activities. We are happy the students are able to do something to give back. The children benefit, the elderly benefit—you couldn’t ask for a healthier experience for everyone involved,” Brooke Chmura, Careers Teacher at Archway Programs.

Future plans are being made to schedule more events for The Archway School students and the seniors at The Fountains at Cedar Parke.



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Susan Mantz, Activities Director, The Fountains at Cedar Parke with Kristine Henle-Blank, Horticultural Instructor, Archway Programs.

Archway Programs has two schools serving special needs children ages three through twenty-one years old. Both schools serve young children, teens and early adults throughout New Jersey and 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 the Career Education Program. The Career Education Program offers a number of vocational and career training opportunities to its students in both schools. Students are given the opportunity to gain first-hand work experience by participating in on-campus, off-campus job samplings, cooperative education, sheltered workshop phrases, classroom instruction and job placement. The careers staff includes educators experienced in food service, multimedia design and technology, horticulture and job coaching in addition to a certified New Jersey Department of Education Structured Learning Coordinator.

The Career Education Program features on-campus flower shop (From the Ground Up) and green house (The Growing Green House). The flower shop and green house feature lessons on: floral design, plant propagation and landscaping taught by staff experienced in floral design/horticulture. Students learn the skills of greeting the public, order taking, product preparation, billing and delivery of goods. Selected students are introduced to advanced floral design techniques. Kristine Henle-Blank, an accomplished floral designer, runs the flower shop and directs the horticulture on-campus program at Archway Programs. From The Ground Up incorporates classroom curriculum which addresses IEP goals. For some students its PT/OT, social interaction, math, critical thinking, science, it varies depending on abilities. Students also learn team building skills, good work ethic, responsibility, customer service inventory and other mercantile matters.



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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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