



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Archway Programs Expands Early Intervention Services**

*Partnership with Voorhees Pediatric Rehabilitation Services allows opportunity to support more families*

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**ATCO, NEW JERSEY** (September 5, 2018) –Archway Programs has partnered with Voorhees Pediatric Rehabilitation Services, in association with Voorhees Pediatric Facility, to expand its early intervention program, Step By Step, serving children from birth through three years old. This collaboration with Voorhees Pediatric Rehabilitation Services will give Archway Programs the opportunity to provide additional supports to children with special needs. The Step By Step Program provides therapeutic services to children experiencing delays in reaching developmental milestones or with a medical diagnosis that puts them at risk for delay. This will allow staff from Voorhees Pediatric Rehabilitation Services to support Archway's Step By Step Program and get out in the community to help more families. Both organizations began discussing the opportunity back in May and expect to start working together early September 2018.

Early intervention services from both Archway Programs and Voorhees Pediatric Rehabilitation Services feature highly trained staff including skilled professionals that share the same vision and passion for helping those in need. Archway's early intervention team includes licensed and certified occupational therapists, physical therapists, social workers, speech and language pathologists, early childhood and special education teachers. Home and community based early intervention services include developmental intervention, speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, ongoing assessment of child and family needs, social services as needed, offering support and education to families, guardians, and primary caretakers, as well as networking with appropriate agencies to address family needs and concerns. Creating partnerships with families to develop and implement strategies, staff will address each child's specific goal.

“We are honored to be a part of an organization that shares a similar mission and core values, improving the lives of others throughout our community. Our staff is eager to have the opportunity to go out in the community and help others. We are confident that this new collaboration will be a success and provide future growth opportunities as more children in need of early intervention services are supported,” stated Douglas Kalbach, Physical Therapist and Director of Voorhees Pediatric Rehabilitation Services.

Recent data provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, indicates that Camden County receives the highest number of referrals for children with developmental delays in Southern New Jersey.

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Currently, Archway's Step By Step Program provides early intervention services to families in Camden, Gloucester and Burlington counties. Through its new partnership Voorhees Pediatric Rehabilitation Services, this program is expected to grow by fifty percent, increasing the number of families served, as Archway expands its early intervention services throughout Southern New Jersey.

“For children experiencing delays, it is extremely important that they receive early intervention services as soon as possible. These are the most critical years for a child to receive early intervention services and children who are diagnosed earlier respond better to treatment. Archway's Step By Step staff is highly trained and will come to your home to provide services needed. We understand how imperative the need is for these services and are grateful to bring our years of expertise to support more families with this new collaboration with Voorhees Pediatric Rehabilitation Services,” said Stacey Edwards, Step By Step Program Director.

For the past thirty plus years, Step By Step has continued to provide quality early intervention services to families throughout New Jersey offered by Archway Programs. Step By Step focuses on seven areas of development – cognitive, communication, social-emotional, gross motor, fine motor, sensory and self-help adaptive skills. Archway's early intervention program uses an integrated approach that includes family and therapists working together in settings that are familiar to the child. During each visit, practitioners provide information, ideas and strategies that parents can continue to use with their child throughout the day.



*Early Intervention staff from Voorhees Pediatric Rehabilitation Services with Douglas Kalbach, Physical Therapist and Director of Rehabilitation Services with Archway's Step By Step Program Director Stacey Edwards.*

Archway's Step By Step Program is an approved agency of the New Jersey Early Intervention System and may be assigned the services for your child. For any questions specific to the Step By Step Program, please



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contact Stacey Edwards at (856) 767-4180. However if families have any concerns regarding their child's development, the first step to receiving early intervention services is to contact the New Jersey State Early Intervention Referral Line at 1-888-653-4463. Families will be given a free evaluation to determine whether or not their child is eligible for Early Intervention Services. For more information on the Early Intervention System please visit [www.njreic.org](http://www.njreic.org) and/or [www.nj.gov/health/fhs/eis](http://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/eis).

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

**About Voorhees Pediatric Rehabilitation Services**

Established in 1996, Voorhees Pediatric Rehabilitation Services (VPRS) in association with Voorhees Pediatric Facility, has a long history of providing educationally based related therapy services in the South Jersey region. VPRS offers occupational, physical, speech/language therapies as well as dysphagia intervention on a contractual basis to a wide variety of medical, educational and home/natural environments. Our therapy professionals are highly experienced in the care of children with special needs, including the medically complex population and those requiring specialized rehabilitation modalities that extend beyond traditional therapies. VPRS is an approved agency clinic with the New Jersey Department of Education, and therefore is able to provide educationally related therapy to local school districts. Please visit [www.forkidcare.com](http://www.forkidcare.com) for more information.



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