ATCO, N.J. - For Archway Programs, April 18th was a day for community and unity.

"We work with people on the spectrum every day, and we know their potential, we know they can learn, and we know they have great things to offer us," said education division executive director of Archway Programs, Susan Lafferty.

Students, staff, and other community members came together for Hands Around the Lake, which started nine years ago with students and staff attempting to create a full circle around the lake on Archway's property, standing hand-in-hand.

"The event today is just really increasing awareness around autism," said COO of Archway Programs Shawn Gibson.

"We think it’s important for Archway, I mean, Archway is kind of a hidden gem here in Atco. So, we want people to be aware of what’s going at Archway, and we want people to understand what’s going on and the great work that’s being done around autism."