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Tom Bergen Memorial Bowling Tournament to Benefit Arc Herkimer Autism Programs

LITTLE FALLS, NY—The Bergen family of Little Falls and friends will host the third annual Tom Bergen Memorial Autism Awareness Bowling Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 23 and Sunday, Feb. 24 to benefit the autism programs at Arc Herkimer.

The family will welcome bowling squads at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sat., and 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. on Sun. The tournament will be held at RD's Gorge View Lanes, 240 Burwell St., Little Falls. Registration is \$15 per person, with no-tap doubles, handicap: 100 percent of 220, and no average: men 180 and ladies 150. Bowlers can call (315) 823-3630 or stop in Gorge View to register.

The Bergen family has raised \$6,000 to date in memory of their son, Tom, who was diagnosed with autism, and passed away unexpectedly in 2016. Tom loved to bowl, from youth bowling to his high school team to

the Sunday mixed league. He also was very active in his community and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ft. Plain, where he served on the church council and assisted with communion. He was a member of Boy Scout Troop #31 and was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. He served as assistant scoutmaster for the troop and was a member of the Order of the Arrow Lodge. Tom graduated from Mohawk Valley Community College, with an associate's degree in Graphic Arts Technology and a Certificate in Small Business Management. He enjoyed volunteering for Arc Herkimer for 16 years, and he was an advocate for autism awareness, hosting a booth each year at MVCC. He was employed as a graphic designer at All Events Engraving, Little Falls.

Other activities during the tournament weekend include a bake sale, prizes, 50-50 raffles, Chinese auction, and t-shirts for sale. For more information, please contact Tammy Helmer-Bergen at (315) 823-1865.

Arc Herkimer's mission is to empower people and enrich lives. Each day, nearly 400 employees provide support for approximately 787 individuals with disabilities and others in the community. For more information about Arc Herkimer, visit www.archerkimer.org or call (315) 574-7000.



The Bergen Family, from left, Billy, Tammy and Bill, present Arc Herkimer President/CEO Kevin Crosley, third from right, with a check for \$6,000, which they raised to honor their son and brother, Tom, from two memorial bowling tournaments. The money is earmarked for the autism program.