



350 S. Washington Street PO Box 271 Herkimer, NY 13350
P: (315) 574-7000 F: (315) 866-8339 E: info@archerkimer.org
www.archerkimer.org

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Media, Please contact: Joan Wishod Reardon, Public Relations Director
Work: (315) 574-7357 **Cell:** (315) 360-2209

Tom Bergen Memorial Bowling Tournament Raises \$3,000 to Support Autism Programs at Arc Herkimer

LITTLE FALLS, NY—The Bergen family of Little Falls announced the Tom Bergen Memorial Autism Awareness Bowling Tournament, held Feb. 23 and 24 at RD's Gorge View Lanes in Little Falls, raised \$3,000 to benefit the autism programs at Arc Herkimer.

The no-tap doubles team of Carrie Knopka Bass of Herkimer and her brother, Jay Knopka of Ilion, were presented trophies and cash prizes for logging in the highest scores.

"Our family and friends were delighted that Carrie, who is a friend and senior payroll accountant at Arc Herkimer, and her brother, Jay, were high scorers. It brings such meaning in that Tom was a volunteer at Arc Herkimer for 16 years. He worked side-by-side with other volunteers, like Carrie, to help make events successful. Our family would like to thank everyone involved. The weekend has become very special."

To date, the Bergen family has raised \$9,000 in memory of their son and brother, Tom, who was diagnosed with autism, and passed away unexpectedly in 2016.

Other activities during the tournament weekend included a bake sale, prizes, 50-50 raffles, Chinese auction, and t-shirts for sale. For more information on the 2020 event, 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.



Tammy Helmer-Bergen, center, presents Jay Knopka, left, and Carrie Knopka Bass, right, with trophies and cash prizes for winning no-tap doubles at the Tom Bergen Memorial Autism Awareness Bowling Tournament. The February event raised \$3,000 for the autism programs at Arc Herkimer.

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