



# Herkimer ARC

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Empowering People...Enriching Lives

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## Herkimer ARC Honors Local Employers

Career Connections, the employment division of the Herkimer ARC, spent the month of October visiting and thanking community businesses and organizations, including Lowe's in Herkimer, NY, who support employment for people with disabilities.

October is designated National Disability Employment Awareness Month, which honors workers with disabilities and serves to recognize the many and varied contributions that individuals bring to the workforce.

Career Connections assists people with disabilities and others in the community who are seeking employment to achieve meaningful work based on each person's needs, desires, and abilities. Individuals seeking employment can make an appointment by calling (315) 574- 7868. Offices are located at the Herkimer Commons Mall, 125-127 E. Albany St. in Herkimer and walk-ins are welcome from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit [www.herkimerarc.org](http://www.herkimerarc.org).

In 2011, Career Connections supported 60 individuals in community employment and 120 at the vocational work center. New partnerships also began with Smokey D'z BBQ in Little Falls, Palantine Nursing Home in Palantine Bridge, McDonald's in Cooperstown, Mohawk Valley Community Action, Valley Health CNA in Herkimer, APAC in Utica, House of Good Shepherd in Utica, and Burlington Coat Factory in Utica.

"Workers with disabilities represent all skill sets and are ready to get the job done," said Herkimer ARC President/CEO Kevin Crosley. "We are thankful for the employers who put the individuals we support to work. These employees are making immeasurable contributions to workplaces each and every day. Unfortunately, the unemployment rate for people with disabilities remains too high. Reversing this trend is crucial. During the month of October each year, we rededicate ourselves to improving employment opportunities in both the public and private sectors," he adds.



*Lowe's in Herkimer, NY, has been an outstanding employer of individuals with disabilities since they opened in 2007. Herkimer ARC took the time to thank store officials for their support in 2011, and included, from left, Assistant Program Director of Career Connections Robin Mattox, Tim Wilson, employee, VP - Day & Community Supports Susan Streeter, Store Manager Doug Campbell, President/CEO Kevin Crosley, Human Resource Manager Donna Smith, and Employment Specialist Dave Miller.*