

Bonhomme Men's Fellowship

MEN'S BREAKFAST

**Saturday, March 20, 8:00 AM
Steffen Hall**

“Living with Autism”

**Ron Ekstrand and Aaron Likens
TouchPoint Autism Services**



WOMEN INVITED, TOO!

Join us at the next Men's Breakfast on Saturday, March 20, when our speakers are Ron Ekstrand, Chief Executive Officer of TouchPoint Autism Services, and his very special guest, Aaron Likens, who has written "Finding Kansas" about his personal experience living with Asperger's Syndrome. Ron and Aaron will help us understand the symptoms, causes, diagnosis, therapies and management of autism.

Recent studies by the Center for Disease Control indicate that more than one in 100 children are born with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), so many families are affected. **Since dealing with autism is such an important family issue, we will open this breakfast meeting to invite women, so husbands, wives and grandparents can all get answers they are looking for.** Some of the warning signs of an ASD include: delay in speaking, repetitive use of language or mannerisms, little eye contact, and lack of interest in peer relationships. If you know anyone who may be living with the challenges of autism, invite them.

TouchPoint Autism Services (formerly the Judevine Center for Autism) offers a full range of services and supports to children and adults with autism and their families. TouchPoint was founded in 1970 and its first program had an enrollment of 17 children. Today, TouchPoint annually serves thousands of children and adults with autism spectrum disorders. And because no one is prepared to be the parent of a child with autism, they also work with families, helping them learn the special skills they will need each and every day – including a life transforming parent training program. Autism puts up a wall between the individual affected and the world around him or her. TouchPoint helps to break through that wall, brick by brick. They focus on building bridges between the person with ASD, the family, the school, the program, the neighborhood, the community.

Ron Ekstrand received a B.S. in psychology from Illinois Wesleyan University and an MBA from Washington University. Prior to joining TouchPoint, he had a career in for-profit businesses, which included serving as Chief Operating Officer at MPP&W, a public accounting firm, and has previously worked at Edward Jones, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Ernst & Young.

Aaron Likens is a young man living with Asperger's and is the author of the amazing book "Finding Kansas: Decoding the enigma of Asperger's Syndrome." Parents, educators, therapist, researchers, and others have compared it to Dr. Temple Grandin's book "Emergence: Labeled Autistic."

Tickets cost \$10 and will be on sale in Kilby Commons on March 7 and 14. **Women are invited! Childcare will be available.** To reserve childcare, contact Irma Holycross at (636) 532-3486. For additional information contact Kurt Johnson at (636) 519-8629.