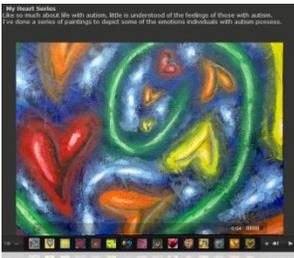


## PRESS RELEASE

*National speaker Taylor Crowe coming to Soldotna and Homer, Alaska*

**Soldotna, March 6, 2012— Ask yourself: Is your life centered on *capability* or *disability*? The Alaska Autism Resource Center, in partnership with Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, welcomes national speaker, Taylor Crowe, to Soldotna and Homer for two inspirational evenings.**



people with autism feel love  
people with autism have faith  
people with autism experience joy  
people with autism know hope

Taylor Crowe

Taylor Crowe is an inspiring young man and artist who will share his daily struggles with the challenges of autism. Growing up in a nurturing and positive environment, he learned that his life is about his *capability*, not disability. Now thirty years old, his life is in direct contrast to the physician who initially diagnosed his autism, adding, "There is no hope for him."

Crowe is a graduate of the California Institute of the Arts with a degree in Character Animation. He will offer two free public presentations, and a general school assembly in Homer.

### **Taylor Crowe "My Life With Autism..." free public presentations:**

- **SOLDOTNA: Monday, March 19, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Soldotna Middle School library**
- **HOMER: Wednesday, March 21, 6:30 -8:30 p.m., Homer Middle School library** (childcare provided)
  - 3/21/12: general school assembly, West Homer Elementary Auditorium, 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Seventy-four students currently receive educational services in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School Special Education eligibility category of autism. Eligibility is based on student needs; students are varied and may be in a general education classroom, a resource classroom, or a contained class.

### **Links:**

[Alaska Autism Resource Center](http://www.AlaskaARC.org) [www.AlaskaARC.org](http://www.AlaskaARC.org)

[KPBSD Pupil Services](http://bit.ly/PupilServicesKPBSD) <http://bit.ly/PupilServicesKPBSD>

[Taylor Crowe](http://www.TaylorCrowe.com) [www.Taylor Crowe.com](http://www.TaylorCrowe.com)

### **About Taylor Crowe and his presentation:**

- Diagnosed with severe autism when he was a preschooler. In the years of public schooling and intense therapy that followed, an extraordinary young man emerged.

- **Presentation** will touch on the areas of his education and upbringing that had the greatest influence on him, vividly describing his evolution from a child given virtually no hope by the physician who diagnosed him, to a grade school student who showed occasional glimmers of promise, to an artistically gifted high school student surrounded by caring friends, to a refreshingly independent young adult who successfully completed a rigorous course of studies at one of the premier art schools in the world.
- **Focus on the impact teaching professionals, therapists, friends and family** have in the daily lives of students with disabilities. He will share details about those specific situations both in and out of school that had the greatest influences on him. He will outline his personal advice to educators and educational assistants about what should and shouldn't be done in school settings for students with autism.
- **Describe life from the frame of reference of an individual on the autism spectrum**, explaining what life is like to someone who is a visual learner predisposed to interpreting things precisely and literally. Taylor will not describe a "miracle cure" of autism. He explains that he still struggles daily with the challenges his autism presents but emphasizes his conviction that by growing up in a caring and positive environment, he learned that his was a life of *capability*, not disability.
- **Share how his specific interests and areas of ability were discovered**, nurtured and cultivated, not for any anticipated vocational benefit but as social tools for interacting with mainstream peers.
- **Coauthor and narrator of *The View from Here: My Life with Autism*, a video documentary** describing his insights about the disorder. He has been the keynote speaker at scores of autism conferences and seminars throughout the United States and Canada, and is one of the individuals with autism **featured in the 2010 HBO documentary film *A Mother's Courage: Talking Back to Autism***.
- **Currently finishing a children's book about autism** he and a friend wrote and illustrated. He also draws editorial cartoons for *The Southeast Missourian* newspaper. In addition to this, he is also preparing a series of lectures about a particular area of interest to him, the history of animated theatrical short cartoons. In 2008 Taylor wrote and animated a short cartoon about the discovery of x-rays for the American Roentgen Ray Society. In his spare time, he paints landscapes.
- Contact: [www.TaylorCrowe.com](http://www.TaylorCrowe.com); Facebook: "[Autism from the Inside: Taylor Crowe 'My Life with Autism'](#)"  
David Crowe, Taylor's father: [dpcrowe@yahoo.com](mailto:dpcrowe@yahoo.com); (573) 576-2173

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