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## Xpress Reviews—First Look at New Books

-- *Library Journal*, 11/1/2007

\* Dr. Barbara Firestone (author) & Joe Buissink (photographer)

### **Autism Heroes: Portraits of Families Meeting the Challenge**

Jessica Kingsley. Nov. 2007. c.240p. photogs. ISBN 978-1-84310-837-5. PSYCH

Autism and Asperger's syndrome have many faces—with this wonderful book, we get to see 38 of them. Readers are treated to a showcase of different aspects of living with autism through short vignettes (organized into sections titled "Dignity," "Hope," "Opportunity," and "Love") and brilliant photographs by Buissink. Firestone is the president and founder of the Help Group of Los Angeles, which serves children with a variety of special needs, including autism. The book is closely tied with the group; all of the families featured come from Southern California, including actors Joe Mantegna and Gary Cole and baseball pitcher Jim Gott. While brief, these passages reveal much about the different ways we learn about autism, relate to siblings, and deal with adulthood. An excellent entry in the literature of autism and disability; strongly recommended for public libraries and academic libraries with disability studies collections. [All of the royalties are being donated to the Help Group.—Ed.]—Corey Seeman, Kresge Business Administration Lib., Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor