

THE HEARTBEAT

VOLUME 5

ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 2025

WHO WE ARE:

Michael Hearts Academy, Inc is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 2019. We are located in Central, FL. Our objective is to increase social skills in individuals with intellectual disabilities (i.e. Autism) by providing various activities in the community with a focus on daily living skills to enhance their lives. We also bring awareness by educating the community on these disabilities.



OUR MISSION

To build an organization that provides unconventional and interactive community based experiences for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We offer activities such as on the job training; summer and year round camps; all while promoting social emotional, educational and daily living skills

OUR VISION

We focus on providing the highest quality services to families in need. We are dedicated to helping our individuals lead dignified, independent lifestyles in the comfort and safety of their own homes and community. We do this by carefully assessing and fully understanding their needs.



WWW.MICHAELHEARTSACADEMY.ORG





HAPPY BIRTHDAY MICHAEL

🎉 Happy Birthday, Michael! 🎉

On September 19th, we celebrate the life and legacy of
Michael Jermain Nelson Jr. 💙

At Michael Hearts Academy, we are committed to honoring his enduring spirit by creating a compassionate community where individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can truly flourish. His memory continues to inspire us every day as we uplift, support, and empower others.

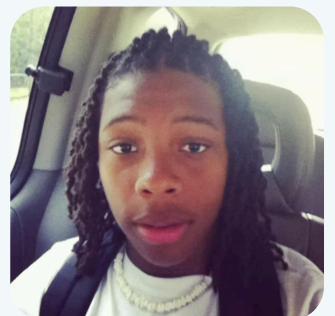
★ We don't just celebrate his birthday—we celebrate the impact of his life and the love that lives on through our mission.

To honor Michael on his special day, we invite you to celebrate with us by making a donation. Your support helps us continue his legacy of love and empowerment. 💙

We thank you for Donations



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6th Anniversary



Celebrating Our 6th Anniversary.

Michael Hearts Academy was created to represent the passionate love Michael Nelson had for others. He would help and give his utmost to anyone. Michael's unfortunate drowning accident caused him the loss of his life at the age of 14 on June 17, 2012. This hardship became the platform to help individuals with disabilities.

Michael Hearts Academy is here to assist as many individuals as possible with social skills in the community and educate community businesses to allow and hire individuals to work.





UPCOMING EVENTS



Oct 1st- Annual Anniversary Sale

Oct 24th- Halloween Costume Contest

Oct 24th- Hearts Community Dance

Nov 15th- 11am to 2pm Turkey Drive



Dec 6th- 12pm Toy Drive

2025 FREE COMMUNITY DANCE

25 APRIL AUTISM AWARENESS

18 JULY JERSEY NIGHT

24 OCT HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

FREE PIZZA 6:30PM - 9:00PM
4872 ROSA BAY DR, ORLANDO FL 32808

Logos: CITY OF ORLANDO, Niko Services LLC, Florida Housing, Life House, Independently Disabled

HEARTS COMMUNITY TOY DRIVE

So that the kids there may enjoy playing on this lovely Christmas day, give them some toys.

For More Information: 407.223.0949

DECEMBER 6, 2025 @12PM
PICK UP LOCATION
5104 N OBT #220 Orlando 32810
Sign Up Now!!

Logos: Florida Housing, Life House, Niko Services LLC, QR code

Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway

Show Thankfulness by Helping Others

Saturday November 15th
4872 Rose Bay Drive,
Orlando, FL 32810
11:00pm - 3:00pm

200 Turkeys to be Given Away

Must Register

For more information: Mjhearts20@gmail.com

Logos: Independently Disabled, Florida Housing, Niko Services LLC, Life House





💙 Volunteer With Us – Be Part of the Difference

Michael Hearts Academy is celebrating 6 years of service, and we couldn't have done it without the support of our community. As we prepare for upcoming events, we're looking for dedicated volunteers to join us in making each experience meaningful and impactful for our participants.

✨ Ways You Can Help:

- Event setup & coordination
- Assisting participants during activities
- Registration & welcoming guests
- Clean-up and closing support

Your time, energy, and compassion make a lasting difference. Whether you can give a few hours or a full day, every helping hand brings us closer to building a brighter future. Volunteer help for events coming





Book Sale

Reading with Hearts



By Supporting Michael Hearts Academy, you are helping us with our mission. We are attempting to raise money for our Camps, but we need your help! Any purchase here will help!! Share with a friend, family, and coworker.

"Michael's Magical Journeys" is a captivating series of books that present relatable situations for readers of all backgrounds and abilities. The central character, Michael, is a boy with remarkable friends who have special needs, and together they explore the world. This series serves as a bridge to foster understanding and education about the special needs community, offering valuable insights to those within and outside the community. These Children Book are available for readers 4 to 8 years old.



Our Services

Hearts Career Camp

Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter breaks

G.R.O.W Guide-Reskill-Optimize-Win

Self-Advocacy

Work Readiness

Work-based Learning

Job Exploration Counseling

Postsecondary Educational Counseling

Student Qualifications

Enrolled in school

14-21 years old

IEP Plan or 504

A referral from VR counselor

Hearts Camp

Spring, Summer, Winter breaks

Life Skills/Art Adventures

Social Skills/Music's Fest

Community inclusion/Scavenger Hut

Student Qualifications

8-21 years old

Hearts Getaway-*coming soon*

Year-round-1 weekend a month
overnight camp for individuals 12 to 21
that will bring adventure and education

How to contact & support us

Michael Hearts Academy, Inc

5104 North Orange Blossom Trail, #220 Orlando, FL, 32810

Ph: 407-223-0949 Fax: 407-877-2031



SCAN HERE

WWW.MICHAELHEARTSACADEMY.ORG



Meet Our New Board Member

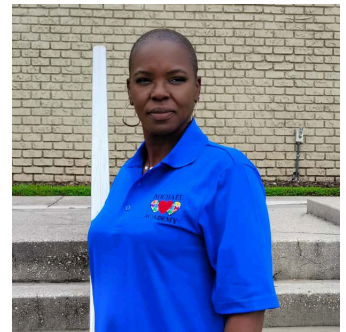
Rose Carter

Born in Jamaica, West Indies and raised in the Bronx, New York, I bring a lifelong dedication to supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Although I do not have children, I cherish the companionship of my beloved dog.

My career spans education, human services, and legal support. I served as an Adjunct Professor in the Human Services Department at Columbia College's Orlando campus for over a decade, delivering in-seat lectures—my preferred format—until the transition to virtual learning during the COVID-19 pandemic prompted me to step away from teaching in 2022. I have also worked as a teacher for children with educational disabilities.

In the nonprofit and social services sector, I successfully operated my own case management agency as an independent Medicaid Waiver Support Coordinator (WSC) for more than ten years, providing critical assistance to individuals with disabilities until regulatory changes in Florida phased out independent WSC operations. Earlier in my career, I gained valuable legal experience as a Paralegal for 7.5 years at a New York City law firm and for seven years with the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (formerly the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities).

Currently, I work as a Benefits Coordinator serving elderly and disabled clients, and I also freelance as an Assessment Writer for several group homes in Lake and Orange Counties, Florida. My diverse background reflects a steadfast commitment to advocacy, education, and improving quality of life for underserved populations.



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