



Matters of the Heart

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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 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.

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.

It's Our Anniversary! Celebrating 5 years of service



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.

Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud. Maya Angelou

Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud. Maya An-

2024 Orlando Magic Game

Donations were collected in order for this event to happen 22 individuals were celebrating this moment. Everyone enjoys this great opportunity.



*We may
Encounter
many
defeat, but
we must
not be
defeated.
Maya Angelou*

Visit our website www.michaelheartsacademy.com to visit our online store and support our Anniversary Sale.

Meet our New Board Member



Meet Erica Williams-Sanders, a compassionate and driven individual with a diverse range of roles that reflect her commitment to helping others. Hailing from Georgia, Erica has dedicated her life to various noble causes, showcasing her unwavering passion for making a positive impact on the lives of those around her. As an army veteran spouse, Erica understands the unique challenges faced by military families. Her dedication to supporting veterans and their families is evident in her advocacy work, whether it's helping them find their dream home or advocating for the benefits they deserve.

With over 20 years of experience as a devoted advocate for autism, Erica has played a pivotal role in raising awareness and supporting families with autistic individuals. Her personal journey as the mother of a young adult with autism has fueled her commitment to making a difference in the lives of those affected by the condition. In her role as a certified ESE (Exceptional Student Education) teacher for over 8 years, Erica has demonstrated a deep commitment to the well-being and development of children with diverse abilities. Beyond teaching, she ensures that parents understand their rights and their children's rights, particularly in the realm of free appropriate public education. Erica volunteers as an advocate, empowering parents to navigate the intricacies of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) to ensure every child receives the support they need.

Not limited to education, Erica is also a licensed life, health, and annuity agent, advocating for the importance of life insurance and assisting others in understanding its significance. Her expertise in the insurance industry reflects her commitment to ensuring individuals and families are financially protected. As a Central Florida realtor, Erica is passionate about turning the dream of homeownership into a reality, especially for those who may feel it is an impossibility. Her dedication extends beyond real estate, as she is in the pursuit of promoting positive change for affordable housing within the industry. Erica is affiliated with Florida Housing Resources, aligning with her commitment to address the challenges surrounding affordable housing.

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.—Maya Angelou

Upcoming Events

Dances for the year 2024

03/15 Cerebral Palsy awareness
 04/19 Autism Awareness
 6/21 Team Jersey
 10/18 Down Syndromes Awareness
 12/14 Hearts Annual Gala

Programs

Hearts Career Camp

What is Hearts Career Camp? Hearts Career Camp is a vocational training program designed to equip students with IEPs or 504 plans with essential work readiness skills and hands-on work-based learning experiences. We believe in empowering every individual to reach their full potential in the workplace!

Incentive Alert! As an added bonus, every participant who completes 20 hours of this in-person training will receive a \$100.00 stipend! This is an opportunity to gain valuable skills, build confidence, and set the stage for a successful future. We're committed to supporting your journey towards a rewarding career. Here are the details:- For students with IEPs or 504 plans. - Ages 14-21. - Referral required from Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). - In-person training for that hands-on experience! For inquiries or referral information, feel free to contact us at mjhearts19@gmail.com.

Hearts Camp:

Full Day Camp Coming Soon

Full Day Camp is year-round: 8am to 4pm Ages 8-21 and older. Includes lunch

Camp - Spring, Summer, Winter breaks

Spring Camp run from one week in March

Summer Camp runs from the end of May thru the first week of August.

Full Day from: 8 am to 4pm. Half Day from: 2 pm to 6 pm. Ages 8-21. Includes snack and dinner.

Hearts Getaway

Consists of 24 Weekends of overnight stays: Ages 12 and older.

Coming Soon Overnight weekends included.

Movies, games, arts & crafts, campfire stories and social interaction with other campers. Lots of different outside games such as basketball, kickball, flag football, bean bag toss, and more.

Campers can arrive Friday at 5pm. Pick up time: Sunday by 4pm.



To Learn more about Pre-Employment Transition Services visit:
www.rehabworks.org/student-youth/student-transition.html



Business Highlights



Team Kareem Memorial Foundation!

Founded by Arkeisha Reese, a dedicated mother and advocate, the Team Kareem Memorial Foundation is a heartfelt initiative that emerged from tragedy to bring hope, education, and safety to children and families. Our foundation is named in loving memory of Kareem Angel Green, a bright young soul who left this world too soon due to a tragic incident. Kareem's untimely passing, resulting from a preventable drowning accident during a field trip, has deeply affected his mother, Arkeisha Reese. Determined to transform her grief into a force for positive change, Arkeisha channeled her pain and love for her son into creating the Team Kareem Memorial Foundation. With a strong desire to ensure that no other parent would have to endure the heartache she experienced, Arkeisha set out on a mission to provide a vital resource for children and families in her community.

At the core of our foundation's mission is a commitment to water safety and education. Understanding the crucial importance of swimming skills and drowning prevention, Team Kareem offers free swimming lessons and related services to children of all backgrounds. We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to learn how to swim in a safe and supportive environment. By equipping children with this essential life skill, we aim to prevent accidents and empower families to enjoy water activities with confidence.

Arkeisha Reese, the driving force behind Team Kareem, has not only championed the cause of water safety but has also become a powerful advocate for mothers in the community. With an unwavering determination to make a difference, Arkeisha balances her role as the Owner/Operator of 360 Degrees Signature Cleaning Service with her dedication to the foundation. Her courage, resilience, and compassion continue to inspire all who come in contact with her story. As we forge ahead, the Team Kareem Memorial Foundation remains committed to making an enduring impact on the lives of children and families. Through education, support, and outreach, we honor Kareem's memory and create a legacy of safety and empowerment. We invite you to join us in our journey to turn tragedy into triumph, ensuring that no mother will have to endure the pain of losing a child in preventable circumstances. For more information go to Team Kareem Memorial Foundation

Community Involvement

The Hearts Community Appreciation Award. Jeremiah Strait-Abrams dedication and commitment to enhancing his mental and physical well-being have not gone unnoticed. Jeremiah's remarkable achievements and the positive impact made within the community have earned him the title of the most improved individual for the year of 2023.

Jeremiah's resilience, hard work, and the strides you've taken in improving yourself serve as an inspiration to everyone around you. The changes he made, the milestones he reached, and the positive influence. He had others highlight his exceptional drive and determination. Jeremiah's journey stands as a beacon of motivation for all those seeking to better themselves, and his success is a testament to the incredible power of perseverance and dedication. We want to express our admiration for your achievements and the example you've set within our community. Jeremiah's story is one that deserves to be celebrated and shared to inspire others to embark on their own paths toward self-improvement.



Community Award

The recognition of Michael Hearts Academy as the recipient of the Nonprofit Most Impact Award from the Apopka Chambers stands as a profound acknowledgment of our dedication to fostering positive change within our community. This esteemed honor encapsulates the collective efforts of our passionate team, volunteers, and supporters who have tirelessly worked to empower and uplift the lives of those we serve. It reflects our unwavering commitment to educational excellence, holistic development,



and fostering a nurturing environment where every individual can thrive. As we accept this award with humility and gratitude, we are inspired to redouble our efforts and continue our mission of shaping a brighter future for the next generation. This accolade not only validates our impact but also serves as a testament to the transformative power of education and compassion in building stronger, more resilient communities. With renewed determination, we pledge to remain steadfast in our pursuit of excellence and to continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of those entrusted to our care

Seeking New Board Members

Secure your sponsorship or donation and support Michael Hearts Academy Inc., commitment to providing these individuals with the opportunity for success and bringing awareness to the community. As a potential sponsor you hold the key to success, not only does Michael Hearts Academy depends upon your continued support but our individuals are also counting on you.

Please contact us or go to www.Michaelheartsacademy.com

if you are interested in learning how to become a sponsor. We have different sponsorship packages.

Platinum Sponsor, Gold Sponsor, Silver Sponsor, and Bronze Sponsor packages

Other ways to Donate- Store on the website, One-Time Sponsor an individual, Additional in-kind, Monthly and/or Annual.

Make all Checks and money orders out to

Michael Hearts Academy, Inc.

P.O Box 681783,

Orlando, FL 32868

