



*"Children with Special Needs Create,
while their Families Chat!"*

UNIQUELY ME CREATIVE ARTS

Serving Children with Special Needs and their Families



OUR MISSION

To improve sensory processing disorder for children through sensory-focused creative arts activities while their families engage in family chats led by experts in the field.

530+

Families Served
Since Oct 2023

275+

Recurring Families
Served since founding

130+

UMCA and Community
Events to Date

Deon & Elijah's Story



"UMCA was born from the unexpected diagnosis of my son at birth."

Without the proper maternal health resources and care at the age of 21, I was left alone after the diagnosis of my son. Founder Deon Jones created UMCA after her son Elijah was born with Down Syndrome and later diagnosed with autism — leading to Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD).

Witnessing how few resources existed for families navigating SPD, Deon was inspired to act by creating the organization she wished she had when she was 21.

Deon brings 17 years of NYC Dept. of Education experience — as a special education teacher, assistant principal, and district math and science instructional specialist.

As a lifelong Brooklynite, she collaborates with elected officials and community organizations to provide resource fairs, seminars, and workshops for children and families across NYC.

Deon Jones
Founder, UMCA

Sensory Processing Disorder — and UMCA's Answer



What is SPD?

A neurological condition where the brain misreads sensory signals — causing behavioral, social, and developmental challenges for children of all abilities.

The Family Impact

When a child is diagnosed, the whole family is affected. Parents often face grief, isolation, and burnout — yet most programs focus only on the child, leaving families behind.

UMCA's Whole-Family Model:

Children engage with sensory arts, music, dance, drama, and digital art. Parents get expert support. Every family leaves stronger.



Isolation
Peer community



No Roadmap
Expert guidance



Cost Barriers
Free programs



No Village
Real community

OUR PROGRAMS



Sensory Zone Drop-In

- Sat, 11AM–2:30PM | 1047A Fulton St, BK
- Ages 3–18 | All abilities welcome
- Rock Climbing, Trampoline, Arts & Music



Family Chats

- Expert workshops for parents in-session
- OTs, BCBA's, therapists & wellness coaches
- Bilingual support & Family Respite



Sensory Curriculum

- NYS Visual Arts Standards aligned
- School & Community Network partnerships

1 in 6 children experience severe sensory challenges.

UMCA Created the “Village” for Special Needs Families Brooklyn Didn’t Have

UMCA transformed a fragmented system into a consistent, community-driven support model establishing the first true “village” for special needs families in Bed-Stuy



gap ← Filling the Gap in Bed-Stuy

-  No integrated, community-based model in Bed-Stuy pre-2023
-  Services were fragmented, clinical, and child-only
-  UMCA established a dedicated community hub
-  Sensory-focused creative arts (children)
-  Family chats (caregivers)
-  Built trust, consistency, and community

With an Established Community Footprint



Established a permanent community hub at 1047 Fulton St. Brooklyn

Weekly Programming Driving Consistent Impact

Sensory Zone Community Glass

Every Saturday
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
ages 18&+ (21&+ for wine) - \$20/TKT
Sign up: www.umca.org - 718-224-1111

Structured music, dance & movement, story-tells, puppets, sensory work, social skills, and self-advocacy

- Program cost: \$6.000 monthly
- Includes: DR. CONSULTANT, Therapists, Occupational Therapy, Sensory Zone, Case Manager
- Staff and Volunteers: 1750
- Payment: Monthly (cash or check) - \$2000/TKT (includes tax and 40% OFF) - \$8000/TKT (includes tax and 40% OFF) - \$10000/TKT (includes tax and 40% OFF)
- * 1047 & Fulton 2nd Fl., Bklyn, NY

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

Monthly family chats (caregivers, expert-led)

- Structured caregiver support

Weekly sensory workshops (children)

- High-frequency engagement drives routine, trust, and developmental progress

UMCA SENSORY SATURDAYS

- Families connect with specialist and each other!
- Children & special needs engage with sensory stations facilitated by a licensed special education teacher + behavior specialist
- Continental Breakfast

REGISTRATION: 718-224-1111





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Brooklyn's Only Sensory Zone That Provides Resources for Parents








WITHOUT UMCA

-  No free sensory zone for children with special needs to explore and grow
-  No expert parent support — families receive a diagnosis with no next steps
-  No access to OT, PT, or BCBA outside of expensive private therapy
-  No community — caregivers isolated, overwhelmed, and without a village






WITH UMCA

-  Free weekly Sensory Zone — arts, movement, chess, trampoline, rock climbing
-  Expert Family Chats every Saturday — OT, PT, BCBA, psychologist on-site
-  Therapeutic programming at TWO community spaces across Brooklyn
-  Culturally affirming, bilingual, and welcoming to every family
-  A real community — parents connected, supported, and no longer alone

UMCA OPERATES TWO COMMUNITY SPACES

UMCA SENSORY ZONE

1047A Fulton Street · Clinton Hill, Brooklyn




-  Weekly Saturday drop-in classes · Ages 3–18
-  Dedicated sensory arts rooms + movement space
-  Opened October 2025 · Expanding basement & backyard



2 Spaces

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Marcus Garvey Blvd · Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn

-  Monthly Sensory Saturdays — family respite programming
-  Autism Awareness Sunday & Legislative Breakfast
-  Community events, clergy partnerships & outreach



UMCA is the only organization in Brooklyn offering a free sensory zone AND expert parent resources under one roof — serving children with special needs and their families





Total Community Impact Since Founding

October 2023 – April 2026 UMCA By the Numbers

530+

Total Registration Touchpoints

275+

Recurring Participants

55+

ZIP Codes Reached

130+

Programs & Events Run

17+

OPWDD Self-Direction Families

2023

Year Founded

PROGRAM HISTORY - MAJOR EVENTS SINCE FOUNDING

UMCA Founded

Oct 2023

First Drop-In Classes

Winter 2023–24

Spring & Fall Programming

2024

Genesis Grant Check Signing

May 21, 2025

Sensory Zone Grand Opening

Oct 4, 2025

2nd Annual Fundraiser

Nov 15, 2025

Mom's Take Broadway

Nov 22, 2025

Holiday Sensory Party

Dec 13, 2025

Sensory Zone Weekly Drop-In

Oct 2025–Present

Sensory Saturdays (10 Toes Down)

Jan–Mar 2026

UMCA × BAM Behavioral Strat.

Mar 14, 2026

Legislative & Clergy Breakfast

Mar 21, 2026

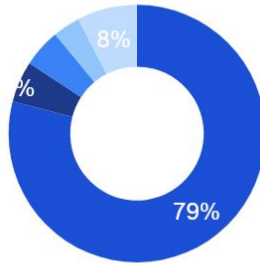
Autism Awareness Sunday

Apr 19, 2026



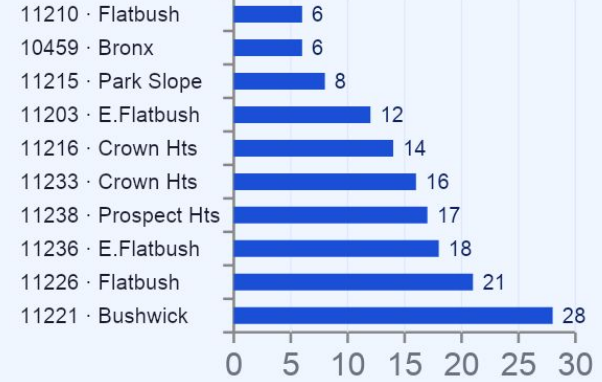
Who We Serve — and Where They Come From

Registrations by Borough (310 total · Oct 2025–Apr 2026)



■ Brooklyn ■ Bronx ■ Queens ■ Manhattan ■ Other

Top ZIP Codes



50

ZIP Codes Reached
(Oct 2025–Apr 2026)

5

Boroughs &
Westchester

18+

OPWDD Self-Direction
Families Enrolled

SENSORY NEEDS REPORTED — ALL PROGRAMS (%)

Sound 75%

Touch 52%

Body Awareness 55%

Movement 45%

Light 38%



Parent Testimonials



[UMCA Families enjoy Broadway and Dinner](#)

Thanks so much for having me Deon, I got so much from that session and I plan to reach out to Dr. Sam soon. Thank you for what you do!!! Take care! 😊😊



Hi sis, Jeremiah is healing well he can now eat again 🙏 Also, I forwarded the flyer to his care manager who will send it to his clients. I told him to give my name and let me know who they were so I could be on the lookout.

Please tell me again what type of Pediatrician you want me to ask him about. Jeremiah went to my desk and tore up the paper.

Also, if I can have some flyers next month I can put them up and give them to businesses.

I'm available the last Sunday in January to attend your church. Let me know if not we can do it on the first Sunday in February.

Thanks again for checking on Jeremiah.

See you in January ❤️

I was telling David thank god for my new friends. Happy I found UMCA and some amazing ladies and my support group. I also said we are going on vacation 😊..



[UMCA Sensory Zone Video](#)

[UMCA Parent Testimonial Video](#)

UMCA Awards & Recognition



Women of Distinction Award

Presented by Assemblywoman Stefani Zinerman · 56th Assembly District · March 2025



NYS Citation



Recognized by Assembly Members Stefani Zinerman and Latrice Walker, Senator Jabari Brisport, and Council Member Crystal Hudson for outstanding service to the community.

Child Center of NY Administration Leadership Award



Honored for exceptional leadership and organizational excellence in providing critical services to children and families with special needs across New York City.

Brooklyn Anti-Violence Coalition Woman of Courage Award



Recognized for courageous advocacy and tireless dedication to building safer, more inclusive communities for vulnerable children and families throughout Brooklyn.

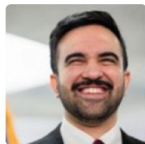
My Time Inc. Disability Champion Award

Honored as a champion for individuals with disabilities, celebrating UMCA's commitment to creating affirming spaces and expanding access to arts programming for all abilities.

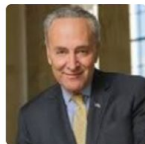
These awards reflect the trust, impact, and community standing UMCA has earned through its commitment to children with special needs and their families.

Leaders Who Believe in UMCA's Mission

ELECTED OFFICIALS & GOVERNMENT



Mayor Zohran Mamdani
Mayor of NYC



Sen. Chuck Schumer
U.S. Senate Minority Leader



Hakeem Jeffries
U.S. House Minority Leader
NY-8th Congressional District



Yvette D. Clarke
U.S. Representative
NY-9th Congressional District



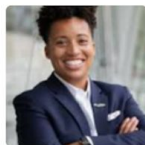
Stefani Zinerman
NYS Assemblywoman
56th Assembly District



Jabari Brisport
NYS State Senator
25th Senate District



Nikki Lucas
NYS Assemblywoman
60th Assembly District

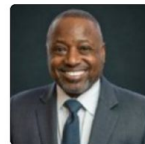


Crystal Hudson
NYC Council Member
35th Council District

COMMUNITY & BUSINESS LEADERS



Keith Perrin
Co-Founder, FUBU



Rev. Adolphus C. Lacey
Senior Pastor



Rev. Kim Council
Deputy Brooklyn Borough
President



Larry Scott Blackmon Jr.
CEO, The Blackmon
Organization

US Senator Chuck Schumer-NY

Video Remarks



Letter Remarks Congresswoman Yvette Clarke



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Yvette D. Clarke
Congress of the United States
9th District of New York

CONSTITUENT SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE
Assistant Director of the Legislative Staff
Director of the Legislative Staff
Administrative and Clerical
Representative and Staff
Representative and Staff

Dear Members and Friends of Uniquely Me Creative Arts,

On behalf of myself, the Clarke Family, and the people of the Ninth Congressional District of New York, I'd like to congratulate your distinguished organization as we celebrate this Uniquely Me Creative Arts Clergy and Legislative Breakfast. I'd also like to express my sincere gratitude to the UMCA team in its entirety for your remarkable body of work that has long delivered exceptional assistance to those extraordinary individuals who need it the most.

As New York's greatest champions for ensuring those with special needs have the collective care they need to live the lives they deserve, it will be the conversations you have at the UMCA Clergy and Legislative Breakfast that drive our city, and our society forward. We know the truth that inclusive, accessible spaces and services matter. We know the stories and lived experiences of our most special neighbors and loved ones matter. We know that this work matters. And that is why you will always have my gratitude for taking up the charge to ensure this necessary work gets done.

As long as I have served the people of Brooklyn, I have believed in the necessity of uplifting the organizations that represent them, and celebrating their achievements to the degree they deserve. Thus, it is my privilege and pride to acknowledge Uniquely Me Creative Arts as one of Brooklyn's most tireless champions and advocates. Thank you for your work, your leadership, and your passion, and I look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes of this successful UMCA Legislative and Clergy Breakfast.

Respectfully,

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES
8TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK
DEMOCRATIC LEADER




Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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BROOKLYN, NY 11234
(718) 373-0023

JEFFRIES.HOUSE.GOV

November 15, 2025

Dear Friends,

Please accept my warmest greetings upon the occasion of Uniquely Me Creative Arts' 2nd Annual Fundraiser: United by Unique Abilities. I would like to commend the leadership, staff and supporters of Uniquely Me for your commitment to empowering families impacted by Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD). Over the past two years, your work has already meaningfully impacted the lives of so many uniquely gifted children, and I know that you are just getting started.

Raising a child with special needs can be a challenging task, but thanks to your efforts, it does not have to be a lonely one. You have shown genuine care and clarity of purpose in uniting families, educators, medical professionals and community leaders to assist families in need through sensory-focused creative arts workshops and family chats. These programs do not only help uplift the children you serve but also bring out the best in the whole community.

Congratulations to all who have played a role in this milestone event, as well as to this afternoon's Community Champion Awardees being honored for their contributions. May this celebration serve as a proud reflection of your accomplishments and an inspiring call to action for the future.

As the Representative of the 8th Congressional District, I want to express my gratitude for your service and dedication to the public. I wish you a memorable celebration filled with inspiration and camaraderie.

Sincerely,

HAKEEM JEFFRIES
Member of Congress

CONGRESSMAN HAKEEM JEFFRIES



UMCA's Legislative & Clergy Breakfast

Top Left to Right: NYPD Community 79th Precinct Council President, Senator Jabari Brisport-25th Senate District, Assistant Chief of NYPD, Victoria Perry, Deon Jones-umca Founder, Rev. Kim Council-Dep. Brooklyn Borough President, Valerie Woolford-Senator Roxanne Persaud Representative, Adolphus C. Lacey-Senior Pastor Bethany Baptist Church, Debra Greif- NY Statewide Representative for Disabilities, Assemblymember Stefani Zinerman- 56th Assembly District



From left: State Senator Jabari Brisport, NYS Supreme Court Justice Lisa Ottley, and Assemblymember and candidate for NYC Mayor Zohran K. Mamdani attend Uniquely Me Creative Arts's one-year anniversary fundraiser at Bethany Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, on Nov. 16th, 2024. Photo by Gabriele Holtermann

Community Institutions That Stand With UMCA



UMCA works alongside government agencies, civic organizations, and community institutions to ensure that no family navigates this journey alone.

Government & Law Enforcement

New York City Police Department (NYPD)

Community engagement, safety partnerships, and outreach to families of children with special needs.

NYC Parks Department

Programming collaboration and access to outdoor recreational spaces for sensory activities.

NYC Dept. of Corrections

Family support programming for incarcerated parents and children navigating developmental disabilities.

Civic & Community

Bed-Stuy Lions Club

Community advocacy, fundraising support, and neighborhood-level outreach to UMCA families.

Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM)

Joint behavioral strategy workshop series — Dr. Sam Blanco BCBA-D, PhD — open to all caregivers.

ADAPT Community Network

Sensory curriculum deployment and disability resource connection for families.



What We Have Raised — and Where We are Going

FUNDS RAISED TO DATE

\$111,000

Total Raised Since Founding

Private Donations

\$60,000

Genesis Foundation

\$25,000

Assemblywoman Zinerman

\$15,000

Brooklyn Org

\$10,000

10 Toes Down

\$1,000

OUR GOALS FOR THE NEXT CHAPTER

Sensory Space Expansion

Expanding at 1047A Fulton St to include sensory rooms, therapy spaces, a family lounge, and an outdoor garden.

→ **Capital investment for construction & build-out**

Summer Program & Adult Day Habilitation Center

Providing life skills and community building for children and adults (18+). Meeting growing demand for adult support.

→ **Expansion to Summer School & Adults**

Maternal Health Support

Coordinating pre/post-natal workshops and aftercare referrals directly to family programs.

→ **Partnership agreement & referral pipeline**

Board Members



Reverend Deves Toon

CHAIRMAN

National Action Network–Field
Director



Deon Jones

PRESIDENT

K-8 Math & Science Coach,
NYCPS; Founder, UMCA



Avery Minardi

VICE PRESIDENT

Vice President M&A – Moelis &
Company



Frederick Davis

TREASURER

Tax Partner – Aprio



Terence Elmore

SECRETARY

Level 3 NYPD Agent



Charles Oakley

BOARD MEMBER

Retired NBA Player; Entrepreneur



Darrian Robinson

BOARD MEMBER

Private Equity Specialist



Linda Wilson

BOARD MEMBER

Executive Director, Fund II
Foundation



Honorable Cenceria P. Edwards, NYS Supreme Court Justice

BOARD ADVISOR



Partner With Us

Together, we close the gap between diagnosis and support — for children and the families who love them.

01

Fund Our Expansion

Invest in our basement and backyard build-out at 1047A Fulton Street.

02

Become a Partner

Join our referral network, co-sponsor events, or bring our curriculum to your organization.

03

Join Our Board

UMCA is recruiting mission-aligned board members and advisors.

Get in Touch

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