



# Uniquely Me Creative Arts (UMCA)

Deon Jones, Founder

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Hello Friends,

I am Deon Jones, the heart behind Uniquely Me Creative Arts (UMCA), an organization born out of love and necessity. UMCA was inspired by my son Elijah, who was born with Down Syndrome and later diagnosed with autism. As a result of his diagnosis, Elijah struggles with Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD). SPD is a condition where the brain has difficulty processing and responding to information received through the senses, which presents behavioral challenges for special needs children. Elijah's struggles with SPD led me to create UMCA.

UMCA's mission is twofold: it empowers children with special needs to engage in sensory-focused creative arts activities that aid in managing SPD, build upon their self-confidence and foster a sense of community, while simultaneously offering their families invaluable discussions and resources from therapists, psychologists, social workers, attorneys, and other professionals in the special needs field during our "family chats".

Please join us every second Saturday of the month at Bethany Baptist Church, 460 Marcus Garvey Blvd, Brooklyn, New York 11216 from 10 am to 12 pm for our "UMCA Saturdays", where our uniquely gifted children explore sensory-focused creative arts activities and their families chat.

In addition to Elijah's unique abilities, my professional background also ignited the fire to start UMCA. I am a dedicated and passionate educator with 15 years of instructional experience within the New York City Department of Education - as a special education teacher, assistant principal, and my current position as a district achievement math instructional specialist.

As a life-long Brooklynite, I collaborate with elected officials and community-based organizations, to provide resource fairs, seminars, and family workshops for children with special needs and their families. Together, we are making a meaningful impact.

Sincerely,

*Deon Jones*, UMCA Founder