

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is awarded to

Funmi Adebisi

for **20 hours** of community service as a Luv Michael volunteer and advocate for autism acceptance this 4th day of June 2024.




DR. LISA LIBERATORE
Founder



Thank you for participating in our service-learning program. For more information about our program elements, please see below.

- 1. Meet a recognized need in the community.** Autism is a lifelong condition that affects approximately 1 in 36 births. As it is a spectrum disorder, individuals experience varying degrees of challenges and possess unique qualities. One common thread among autistic adults is elevated anxiety, difficulty with socialization and communication, and a preference for routines and repetition. As adults on the spectrum, navigating the world of employment and residential living can be particularly challenging. Luv Michael specializes in addressing these challenges by providing support and resources to autistic adults. The focus is on empowering individuals to lead fulfilling lives by providing opportunities for skill-building, socialization, and employment.
- 2. Achieve curricular objectives through service-learning.** While participating in this service-learning project, students engage in synchronous instruction and complete asynchronous lessons to learn about needs of autistic adults and how their needs are met by Luv Michael. Students practice the social emotional skills of self-management, responsible decision-making, relationship skills, social awareness, and self-awareness. Students apply their writing skills while advocating for autism acceptance by sharing their knowledge with others via digital outreach.
- 3. Reflect throughout the service-learning experience.** Students have the opportunity to share thoughts and questions during the synchronous instruction component of the program. They reflect on their advocacy work in writing through a personal reflection using guided questions.
- 4. Develop student responsibility.** Students are responsible for sharing what they have learned about autism with family and friends and for alerting those contacts to the valuable work Luv Michael does to support autistic adults on their journey.
- 5. Establish community partnerships.** The Luv Michael bakery operates in two locations, Tribeca and Southampton, NY, and currently employs over 50 autistic adults. The employees hand make, package and ship this product as a way for Luv Michael to thank donors for taking the time to become an ally to the autism community. Through participation in this service-learning project, students join Luv Michael in its mission to support individuals with autism and provide them with the tools they need to lead fulfilling lives.
- 6. Plan ahead for service-learning.** Students are provided with the background information about autism and Luv Michael that is needed for them to be successful advocates for the autism community. Students identify the family members and friends they choose to inform about the organization and its mission.
- 7. Equip students with knowledge and skills needed for service.** We provide a robust education piece to our program. Through communicating and sharing knowledge with others, students develop skills that are invaluable for leadership opportunities. This experiential learning can enhance student understanding of concepts and theories.