

Why Luv Michael

People with autism age out of school and most probably don't realize there's nothing for them to do after they age out. It is typically called "falling Off the cliff".

These people go from a very structured environment to a chaotic one.

With 1 in 59 children born with autism, every year, and with 50,000 aging out of school each year, this is a socioeconomic crisis with rates of 90 percent unemployed or underemployed. The highest rate among people with disabilities.

Luv Michael takes over where school leaves off, providing hope, and meaningful employment opportunities for people with autism and special needs.

Luv Michael's Story

Finding a career was not easy for Michael Kessarlis, a Port Washington, New York native on the autism spectrum. Despite his love of cooking, Michael was unable to enroll in culinary school without a high school diploma. Michael's parents, both physicians, Lisa Liberatore, MD and Dimitri Kessarlis, MD, helped create the food-based business so that their son and others with Autism would gain the experience and workplace skills to lead happy and productive lives. From the results of their initial effort, they learned that Luv Michael Co. had the potential to achieve so much more.

From the first granola batches in Michael's home kitchen to the temporary-use industrial kitchen in Long Island City, and the original teams of autistic workers, now known as "Granologists", the results of the work became apparent. The workers were upbeat, enthusiastic about coming to work each morning. Their communication and collaborative skills were improving every day. Through "tasting visits" with participating retailers, the workers were interacting with and communicating with the public. The real proof became apparent when they left their shifts and returned home. We began receiving testimonials from parents who confirmed that the Luv Michael model works!

"This program gave our son a reason to wake up and do his best.... something he enjoyed about school that he was now lacking. I notice his joy and gorgeous smile is back. Luv Michael's is now his favorite conversation topic."

"Luv Michael is a place where young adults with autism can work and continue to learn. He loves wearing his chef uniform and is very proud of his work. 'I made granola today' he says with a big smile when he returns home. Me personally, I can see some light at the end of the tunnel. I am more optimistic about our sons' future."

"I was never prouder. My daughter has grown by leaps and bounds, not just at LUV Michael, but in her everyday life. Her confidence knows no bounds. She loves going to work and loves the people she works with. I don't know where we would be without the love, caring, and support of your amazing organization. She is smiling again, proud to be earning a paycheck, and can't wait to do it all again the following week."



"Luv Michael became a place he could go to work and that taught him to realize his potential and self-worth was a huge step toward Independence self-reliance and building friendships. Luv Michael really is about love, love for all people. It is a place of inclusion, of trust, of the dignity of community and giving."

Today, Luv Michael is carried by six retail chains in four states, including Starbucks, D'Agostinos, and Gristedes supermarkets. Airline JetBlue has declared Luv Michael a winner in its BlueBud competition, recognizing Luv Michael as a start-up food company with incredible potential and a critical mission. Luv Michael granola will be carried on JetBlue flights as soon the granola company is able to meet production demand.

This brings us to now, where Luv Michael's founders have dedicated a commercial property space for Tribeca for a much-need home for which Luv Michael can thrive neighborhood This new space will become a learning-training center, a high-volume commercial kitchen, and retail space. With this new facility, Luv Michael will be able to train and mentor even more granologists while raising production volume, expanding a complete product line and thereby becoming a self-reliant commercial enterprise, generating profits for further expansion.

Luv Michael and the "Autism-to-Work" Business Model of Innovation and Progress

It is very important to note, that we are not just running a granola business and we are not just setting up autistic people with jobs. In fact, we are revolutionizing a new era in the special needs workplace by using trained, special needs educators and carefully developed lesson plans to bring our granologists to an entirely new level of autism education. It is an education that not only prepares our granologists for earning their New York State food handler's license, but it also prepares them for the kind of skills needed in the workplace.

Some of our granologists will move up to more senior roles. Some will be involved in the training process. Others, will one day leave our facility and take their new-found skills and development to another employer. All will find a new hope for their futures. All will go miles beyond their previous skills and capability.



Our long-term goal is to take this successful model and replicate it nation-wide and internationally.



Share the “Luv” Levels of Giving

Benefactor- \$1,000,000

In recognition of this life-changing gift of one million dollars, the Share the Luv Benefactor would be honored at a grand opening VIP cocktail reception and featured in a ribbon cutting ceremony certain to be covered by media outlets. A large plaque, painting or other permanent means of recognition of this gift would be placed in our beautiful reception area, so all who visit, work and learn at Luv Michael will know of the tremendous benefaction that allowed Luv Michael to grow and help so many vulnerable individuals and families in need. Luv Michael will feature the donor's name prominently on its website and other social media. Luv Michael Executives will be honored to attend any event requested by the donor, to discuss the gift and its meaning.

Luv will keep us together- \$100,000

In recognition of your donation of \$100,000, your family or business name will be prominently displayed on our website and other social media, and a plaque in recognition of this gift will be displayed in our Manhasset Incubator Kitchen. Luv Michael will feature the donor's name prominently on its website and Luv Michael Executives will be honored to attend any event requested by the donor, to discuss the gift and its meaning. In addition, you'll receive two (2) one-year subscriptions to our delicious Granola, as well as His and Her matching Luv Michael Fleece pullovers and caps.

Whole lotta Luv- \$50,000

A donation of \$50,000 would be recognized throughout our social media network. A plaque in recognition of this gift will be displayed in our Manhasset Incubator Kitchen. You'll receive (2) one-year Granola subscriptions as well as His and Her matching Luv Michael Fleece pullovers and caps.

Luv Fest –\$25,000

Your donation of \$25,000 would be recognized throughout our social media network. A plaque in recognition of this gift will be displayed in our Manhasset Incubator Kitchen. You'll receive a one-year subscription to our delicious Granola, as well as His and Her matching Luv Michael Fleece pullovers and caps.

All my Luving – \$10,000

Your donation of \$10,000 would be recognized throughout our social media network, and you'll receive a six-month subscription to our delicious Granola, as well as His and Her matching Luv Michael Fleece pullovers and caps.

Sweet Luv –\$5,000

Your donation of \$5,000 would be recognized throughout our social media network, and you'll receive a three-month subscription to our delicious Granola together with a Luv Michael cap.



Our Pledge to You!

Our pledge to you is to make an indelible impact on the lives of countless young adults with Autism as we embark on this exciting new chapter in the future of Luv Michael. What we need more than ever, is the support from our family, extended family and friends to purchase equipment, help with construction costs, and help with the financial support of critical talent and educators in order to successfully provide Luv Michael with a strong foundation.

By entrusting our team with your support, you can be sure that 100% will go into the designated area you have chosen to support. Please donate to our capital campaign and help "Build the Luv" for Tomorrow's Autism Workforce! Thank you. Your Donation Helps Luv Michael, a 501c 3 Organization, Train, Educate & Employ Individuals with Autism. Thank you!



((share the luv))

Please mail your donation form to:

Luv Michael 154 E 85th Street, New York, NY 10028

Or email us at: info@luv michael.org

www.luv michael.org



Donation Form - Share the Luv

Full Name: _____

Company: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____



Donation Amount

Sweet Luv
\$5,000

All My Luv
\$10,000

Luv Fest
\$25,000

Whole Lotta Luv
\$50,000

Luv Will Keep Us Together
\$100,000

Benefactor
\$1,000,000

Other: \$ _____

Payment Information

Check

Check #: _____ Check Amount: \$ _____

Credit Card

Name on Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____

Billing Address Same As Above?

Other: _____

For Questions Related to Donations:

Email us at info@luvmichael.org or call (646) 661-1224
Visit: <https://luvmichael.com/build-the-luv/> to learn how you can help!

