Helping You Help Others

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The Charity of the Month for July is
Blue Umbrella Experience
www.abcommunityclasses.org

Blue Umbrella Experience (BUE) is a local nonprofit organization that offers a variety of interactive and engaging community classes for youth, young adults and individuals through their Above and Beyond Community Class initiative. Their goal is that students will enjoy learning while also connecting with others. The importance of community should never be overlooked, and Blue Umbrella Experience definitely understands that.

The classes that this nonprofit offer either take place at their new location, which is 150 Motor Parkway, Suite 11, Hauppauge, NY 11788 or online! Some classes they offer are: Yoga, Martial Arts, Acting and Improv, Music Appreciation, Art, Digital Design and Technology, World Cultures, History of Walt Disney, Languages and Humanities, Personal Development, Finances and Math for everyday use, Communications, Animals & Nature and Cooking for all abilities and all levels.

“We know we are our best selves when we have that safe space to feel accepted in, to help give us courage to try new things and practice using our voices to comfortably advocate for ourselves. We started our nonprofit Blue Umbrella Experience, Inc last June with the hope of thoughtfully and skillfully helping youth, young adults and individuals of all abilities to grow by learning, connecting and belonging during the pandemic and beyond,” says Executive Director Christine Hawkins. “We honestly could not bear the thought that individuals might otherwise face even more isolation, adversity and less options. We have been blessed with a team of instructors that have professional teaching experience in a Comprehensive Transition Program and first and foremost, a love of supporting positive growth in their students; and so, through our Above and Beyond Community Class initiative, BUE’s community has grown to an incredible group of over 80 individuals from all over and ranging in age from 14 into their thirties.”

Since September, this nonprofit has had 100% retention and everyday their BUE community continues to expand, while keeping their interactive classes small and personalized for optimum learning. To nurture the incredibly important sense of belonging, they also make sure they incorporate free lunch meetings, a weekly wrap up community meeting, as well as social events to integrate learning and help students nurture their bonds with each other.

Students and professionals are always welcome to visit their new location to see what it’s all about. Additionally, if you are looking to get involved with BUE, they welcome professionals that have teaching experience and a lot of heart to reach out and propose classes that they can run that will support skill-building and increase quality of life for others. Also, if you would like to volunteer your time to help fulfill their mission, you can! Lastly, donations are always appreciated.

If you would like to get involved with Blue Umbrella Experience in any way, please contact Christine Hawkins at chawkins@buexperience.org. Looking to learn more? Please visit www.abcommunityclasses.org, visit them on Facebook or watch for upcoming articles this month featuring this great nonprofit. In the meantime, BUE urges you to “Take a Class and Join a Community!”

If your non-profit would like to be featured in this column, please email noellestanuch@longislandmediagroup.com for consideration.