

# AN EARLY GOOD NEWS FOR THANKSGIVING

This week we'll be taking a welcome break for one of our favorite holidays, so you won't be getting your regular Good News on Friday. But we also want to recognize what is at least as important as the family gatherings and delicious food –all the reasons we have for giving thanks! Here are some from us at SDMNY:

All the amazing Decision-Makers, their families and supporters with whom we have been privileged to work;

The volunteer facilitators who have given so generously of their time to enable people with I/DD to make their own decisions and retain all their legal and civil rights;

The funders who have made our work possible: The New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC); The New York Community Trust; The Ford Foundation; The FAR Fund; and The Taft Foundation:

Our colleagues around the world, in places like Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Columbia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, India, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Latvia, Mexico, and Peru, who have piloted supported-decision-making, advocated for, and sometimes passed, groundbreaking SDM laws, and advanced the human right of legal capacity for everyone, regardless of disability;

The hundreds of disability activists who participated in a 24-hour vigil in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 6-7, and the hundred thousand who signed petitions and told their stories about the need for home and community based services (HCBS);

The Build Back Better Bill that passed the U.S. House of Representatives last week, that provides \$150 billion for HCBS to reduce waiting lists for services and ensure better pay for much needed home care workers, funding to help employers and states transition away from sub-minimum wage, expanding fair employment and financial security for people with disabilities, and billions in housing assistance to make accessible housing more widely available and affordable.



*Josue Rodriguez, an organizer with El Paso ADAPT, on right, speaking with other disability rights activists, U.S. Capitol, October 7, 2021.*



And a very special thanks to Hunter President Jennifer Raab, who believed in our work even before there was an SDMNY, who has generously given SDMNY a home at the Silberman School of Social Work, and without whose support SDMNY would not exist.

**AND, OF COURSE, THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR COMMUNITY. HAVE A WONDERFUL, GRATEFUL THANKSGIVING!**