

## **(BELATEDLY) CELEBRATING THE ARC WESTCHESTER'S FIRST SDMA SIGNING—AND NANCY SUCCOSO!**

We're just catching up with some of the SDMA signings that happened at the end of 2021, and want particularly to note a signing ceremony that took place on November 3 at The Arc Westchester. The Arc Westchester was an original partner in SDMNY, and this is their first signed SDMA. It took a while, but we understand that it is only the first of many more to come, fueled in large part by referrals from Westchester Surrogate's Court.

For Tony and his supporters, however, it was their own special day. He's 29, lives in Yonkers with his family, and has proudly been competitively employed at Shop Rite for more than 10 years. Tony selected and participated in classes with the Successful Learning Center, offering a college campus experience that he loved. He's someone who is always happy to be busy, but he also enjoys daily swims when it's warm, taking long walks and camping. His big goal right now is to live in a walkable Westchester community with a group of friends that he has known for many years. His facilitator, Nancy Succoso says "Tony was a pleasure to work with, he was always clear about what was important to him. I know he will do well!" so we're confident that he will have the ability and support to make the decisions that will lead him to that goal.



*Tony and his supporters, Nancy Succoso on the left*

We also celebrate Nancy, who has been a powerful and dedicated advocate for SDM since we first met her in 2016. She continues that work at The Arc Westchester where she is Director of Guardianship and Individual Supports; she has also become a speaker and educator about SDM who is much in demand. Just this week she was able to make the facilitation process—and its importance to Decision-Makers and their families—truly come alive for participants in a New York Women's Bar Association webinar on alternatives to guardianship. So...

**CONGRATULATIONS TO TONY AND HIS SUPPORTERS,  
and  
THANKS NANCY; KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!**