

A friend and supporter validates the use of SDM and SDMA's for people on the autism spectrum

As you may know, our 5-year grant from DDPC ended in March. Because of Covid, we weren't able to finish all of our work and accomplish all of our goals by then, and we needed to raise funds for another "bridge" year. One potential funder had questions about whether SDM and SDMA's are valuable for people on the spectrum.

We thought the best way to answer them was with the voices of members of our community who had experienced-and benefitted from- SDMNY's work. In record time, over the Memorial Day weekend, we were able to video a number of Decision-Makers, their families and supporters, and educators and experts. One truly amazing person, Alison Berkley, fits three of those categories. She is an educator with 19 years of experience in special education, and Co-founder and Executive Director of Invictus, a company dedicated to job training and employment for young people on the spectrum that makes healthy, and delicious, doggie treats. Not only is she an important figure in the autism community, she is also a Supporter for one of our very first Decision Makers and, over the past few years, has seen others of her "bakers" successfully complete our process.



Alison Berkley



Invictus bakers and Alison

Alison spoke passionately about SDM, including this inspiring statement. She said that SDMA's

"hold everyone accountable to elevating our expectations of what is possible"

Exactly! To meet and hear Alison, click [here](#). To learn more about Invictus, check out their website (and great videos) at www.weareinvictus.org And, we're very happy to say, she and the others persuaded the funder, so we're set for another year!

THANK YOU ALISON, FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO!