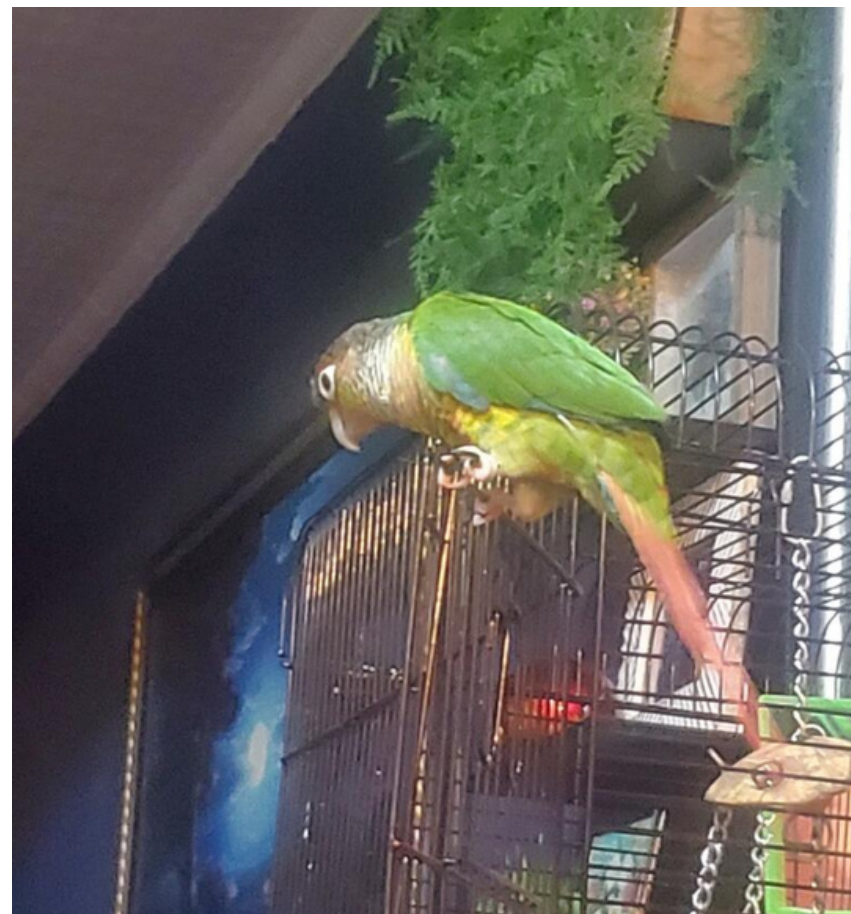


# A Signing Ceremony “For the Birds”

We first met Dylan through the Queens College-District 75 post-secondary program from which he has since graduated; he was one of four students who signed up with SDMNY, two of whom have already signed their SDMA's. Last week was Dylan's turn, and it was a ceremony like no other!

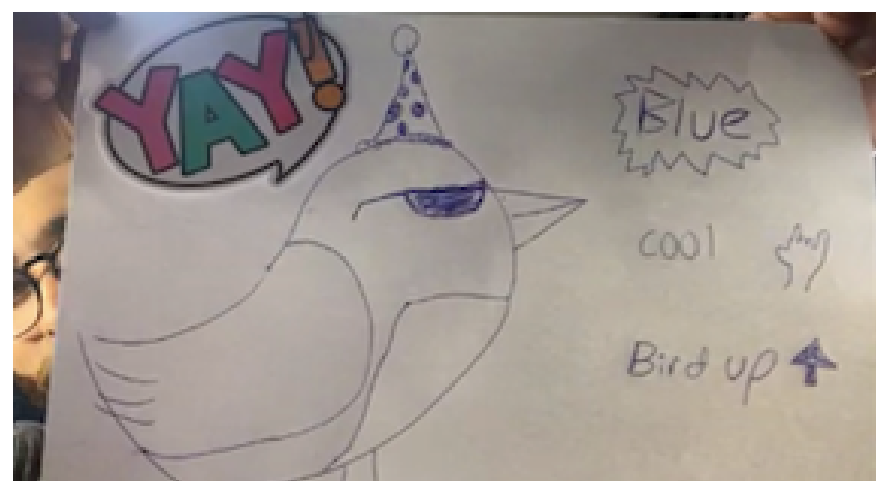
We already knew that Dylan, a budding computer graphic artist, who is looking forward to getting his driver's license, is part of a big, loving Puerto Rican family, including a twin brother, that has fun together, takes care of each other, and is very proud of him. Recently when Dylan helped us make a video about how SDM can benefit people on the autism spectrum, we were also introduced to his beautiful bird, Mango, who definitely stole that show (you can see the video [here](#).)



*Dylan's birds Mango and Paulie*



*Dylan with his parents, brother, and two birds*



*Dylan's older brother with his drawing*

At the signing ceremony, we learned that this is a family that has many beautiful birds, three of whom, including Mango, were there to cheer Dylan on. We loved getting to meet them all. and to share the “bird greeting” that Dylan's older brother Raymond spontaneously drew for him. While signing ceremonies are always celebrations of all the hard work that Decision-Makers, their supporters and their facilitators have put in, Dylan, his family and the birds also made this one really fun!

Jenna, Dylan's SDMNY facilitator, acknowledged everyone's contribution, and the joy she took in getting to work with them, saying “It's been an amazing experience to work with Dylan on his agreement. We included everything he thought was important and it was great to have his incredible family on board to support him during the process.” Even though the facilitation—and the signing—took place remotely, Jenna had clearly gotten to know them all well, as she sent us the great pictures of Mango and Paulie!

**Congratulations to Dylan, your wonderful family, Jenna and, of course, the birds!**