

# Happy Thanksgiving from SDMNY!

Although we may not be spending the holiday with friends and family this year, there is much to be thankful for. Our wonderful Decision-Makers, their families and supporters, and volunteer facilitators have made this an incredible year for SDMNY, demonstrating how SDM allows people with developmental disabilities to make their own decisions with the support of trusted people in their lives, while retaining all of their legal and civil rights.

But the good news about SDM doesn't stop in New York. We were excited to learn of a recent victory in Florida, where the court terminated the guardianship of a 22 year-old Miami resident with autism, based on his use of SDM. The Miami Herald article, which you can read by clicking [here](#), notes that this was the *second* such restoration of rights based on SDM in the state.

These cases are beginning to be brought all over the country, and our legal partner, Disability Rights New York (DRNY) is already working on an SDMNY restoration case—the first of many, we hope-- which we plan to celebrate soon. DRNY is the federally-funded Protection & Advocacy Agency (P&A) for New York, and it's no accident that the two cases in Florida were brought by their P&A, Disability Rights Florida. So let's also give thanks for these amazing public interest lawyers who join with us in ensuring that:

**Everyone has the right to make their own decisions!**

From all of us at SDMNY, temporarily breaking our tradition of Friday "Good News," we wish you and your loved ones a happy and safe holiday.