

A MOVING SDMA SIGNING CEREMONY WITH A MESSAGE FOR PARENTS

Last Friday Decision-Maker Samantha celebrated her SDMA signing with a number of enthusiastic and loving supporters. Facilitator Karen praised those supporters as “immediately on board and understanding of what their roles are to be.” By everyone’s account, Samantha is an extraordinary person, “dynamic, talented, motivated and unstoppable,” according to Supporter Heather.

Samantha is 31, lives on her own on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, and is a multi-talented performer who began performing as a little girl, volunteers and works part time shifts with Action Play, and Co/Lab theater group, and has co-starred in an award winning film, “Keep the Change.” She says, “This process of creating my SDMA went very well. Regardless of my very busy and time consuming schedule, the process was a tremendous success. I feel incredibly proud of myself in completing the SDMA program and it deserves to be celebrated for everything I've accomplished from the SDMA process.”



Samantha and mom Marguerite

We have heard many wonderful and inspiring things about the importance and value of SDM and SDMNY’s facilitation process. But what Samantha’s mom, one of her many supporters, had to say was so moving, and so important, especially for parents thinking into the future, that we wanted to share it here:

Supported Decision-Making is vital because it offers a dignified and respectful support system to high functioning adults with disabilities who have worked hard to be as independent as possible and do not need full guardianship-- previously the only option. Supported decision-making will help Samantha to think for herself and to learn and grow on her adult journey. Those who have agreed to help her after her parents are gone will truly allow us to rest in peace because we know that with your help Samantha will live her best life. We can't thank you enough!

**CONGRATULATIONS SAMANTHA, ALL YOUR SUPPORTERS, FACILITATOR
KAREN, AND THANKS TO MOM MARGUERITE!**