

FRIENDS MAKE A WONDERFUL SDMA SIGNING CEREMONY SPECIAL FOR SDMNY



Dan is a talented, bright, adventurous and determined 19 year-old who lives with his family in Ossining in Westchester County. Dan is artistic: he's been taking pottery classes for three and a half years, and, for the past year he's been working at Amaze-in-Pottery in Briarcliff. We also happen to know that he loves the color yellow, (because it's so happy!) so we hope he likes this Good News!

Dan has worked really hard in his SDMNY facilitation, not surprising to Supporter Melanie who described him as having "very high expectations for himself, and always giv[ing] his best efforts in whatever he attends to. Dan says how much he "enjoyed working with [facilitator] Janine and learning about how to make decisions and the many different kinds of decisions that there are." He says that SDM "allows me to gain independence while still receiving ideas, information and help so that I can make a good decision that works for me."

Dan gathered a terrific group of supporters who are deeply committed to him and to supporting his decisions as he enters adulthood. His mom Tricia summed up all of their pride and enthusiasm, even as she embraced her role as a chosen supporter, saying

"I love being one of Dan's supporters and making a commitment to him to provide guidance and information so that he can understand his life decisions and be allowed the "dignity of risk" to learn the skills of adulthood."



Dan (upper right corner with his mom and supporter), Joan of SDMNY on the upper left corner, facilitator Janine right next to her, and Dan's other supporters

Beside the pride we at SDMNY feel in all our Decision-Makers, there was a special quality to Dan's journey because of the connections that made it possible. Dan's mom learned about SDM at a focus group that was convened by our friends at Parent to Parent; Facilitator Janine was one of the first trained facilitators from our friends and colleagues at the Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD). (We'll have more on a new project we're doing with WIHD soon.) So, although Dan's achievement belongs to him and his supporters, it's also a testament to the many wonderful connections we have made, and the reach of SDM within our community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DAN, HIS SUPPORTERS, FACILITATOR JANINE, AND ALL OUR FRIENDS WHO HELPED MAKE THIS HAPPY DAY POSSIBLE!