



CELEBRATING THE AMAZING MOMS IN OUR SDMNY COMMUNITY

There's lots of good news about SDM this week, including the overwhelming support we hear for OPWDD's SDM bill in the State Assembly (Bill# A8586A, in case you want to express your opinion to your Assemblymember or Speaker Carl Heastie) that has already passed the Senate. But it's hard to ignore the fact that this Sunday is Mother's Day, and whatever you think about the holiday, it's a great moment to recognize, celebrate and appreciate the moms in our community.



Joan and daughter Liv

The moms of people with I/DD do so much to protect their kids, to get them the services they need and deserve, and to work, day in and day out, to ensure that their kids can have the best possible lives. (Of course dads do too, but their day isn't until June!) Among those, of course, is SDMNY's own Associate Director (and facilitator to many) Joan Cornachio.

Many of our Decision-Makers were first introduced to SDMNY by their moms, and the vast majority have chosen their moms as supporters (One Decision-Maker, Justin, even chose Larissa, the mother of his best friend Andrew, another Decision-Maker, as one of his supporters!)



Justin, Larissa, and Andrew

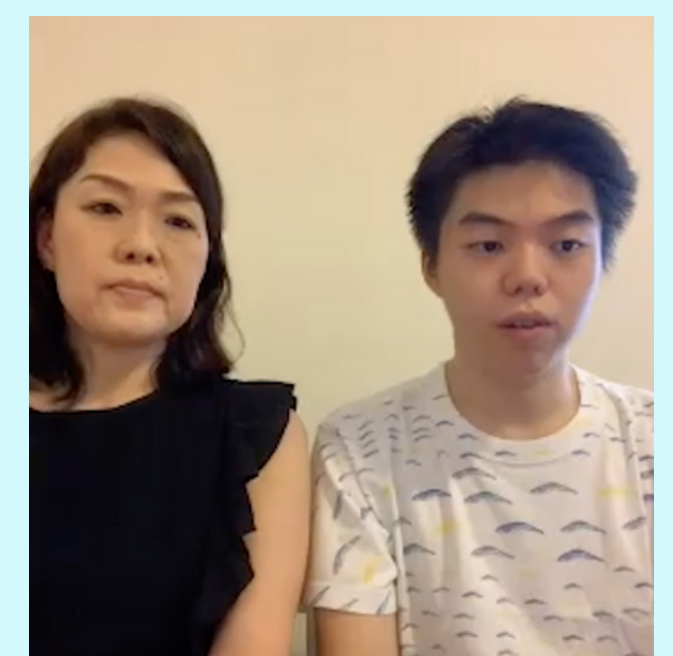
But many of those moms have also gone out of their way to support and advocate for SDM for the adult children of all the other moms in the state. We can't begin to name them all, but here are just a few, who have "starred" in some of our videos, or made presentations, or worked within their organizations to promote SDM as an important means of promoting the self-determination, autonomy and right to make their own decisions for all people with disabilities. Here are just a few:



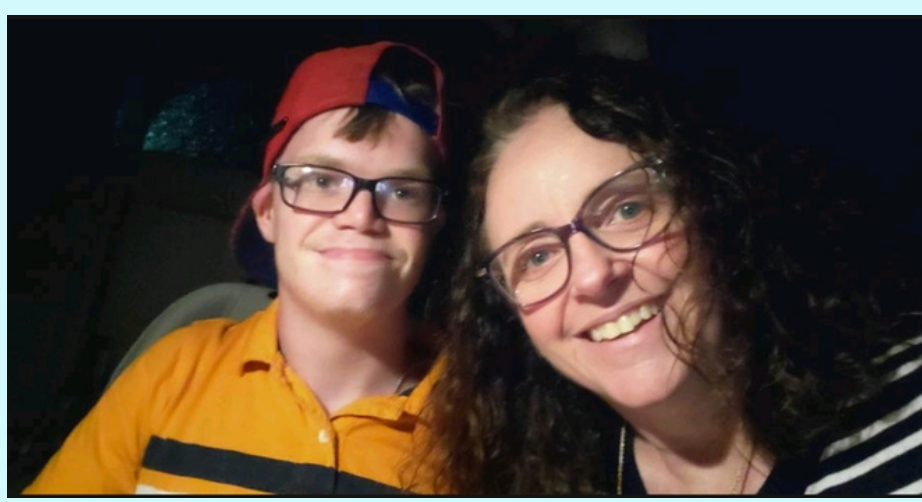
Beth and Thomas

Beth's son Thomas was one of our very first Decision-Makers to sign his SDMA and she has spoken compellingly about their journey in several SDMNY videos that have persuaded many families to try SDM

Sachiko is another mom, whose pride in her son's growth through SDM, and video appearance has moved and inspired us all



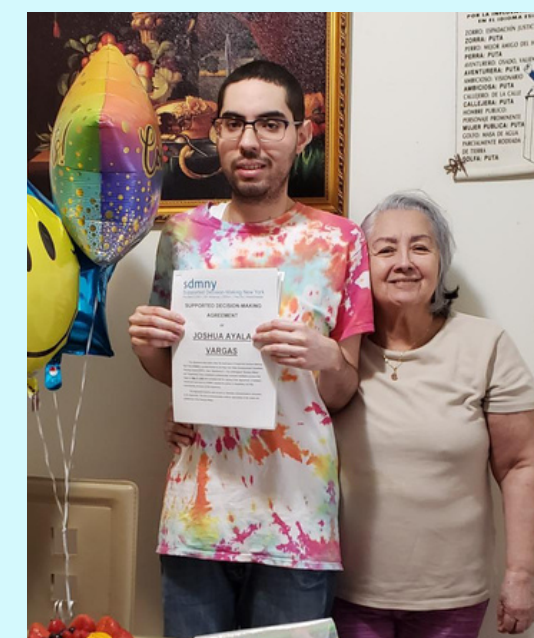
Sachiko and Dan



Devon and Michele

Michele has not only shared son Devon's fabulous SDMA signing ceremony with all of us (see Good News [9/11/2020]) but, as Executive Director of Parent to Parent NY, has facilitated focus groups on SDM legislation, and tirelessly advocated for SDM as a choice that should be available to all families

And let's not forget the grandmothers, like Abuela Maria, whose enthusiastic endorsement of SDM in two of our videos ("Este programa es de lo mejor!") always makes us (and everyone) smile, and the godmothers, like Nell, who has been such a great supporter to Decision-Maker Trina, and who traveled to Washington D.C to promote SDM at a national conference



Jhoshua and Maria



Trina and Nell

TO ALL OF THEM, TO ALL OUR SDMNY MOMS, AND TO THE MOMS OF CHILDREN WITH I/DD EVERYWHERE, THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO, AND HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

