

# FIRST IN-PERSON SDMA SIGNING IN MORE THAN A YEAR

Because of Covid, for the past 2 1/2 years almost all of Decision-Makers' SDMA signing ceremonies have been remote, with families and supporters joining via Zoom. This week, however, we're excited to report the first in-person signing in over a year, with hopes that there will soon be many more. As the delightful photograph below shows, Decision-Maker Noel and his supporters took full advantage of celebrating together with congratulatory decorations—and a feast!

Noel is 24, lives in Queens and works at Walmart. He's curious about viruses—and math! He says he found the SDMNY facilitation process both “fascinating” and “incredible” and that he will use his SDMA to “become more independent.” He also noted that SDM is especially important to him because of his supporters, and they could not have been more enthusiastic. Among them, his Uncle Santiago commented on how honored he and his wife were to have been chosen as supporters, and how happy they are for Noel. If a picture is worth a thousand words, this one of Noel and his supporters surely tells the story!



We also want to give a shout out to Noel's facilitator Carrie. She started as a volunteer when she was a graduate student at the Hunter School of Education where we were doing a small pilot project, and found facilitation so rewarding that she continued after graduation. She has been working with neurodivergent adolescents and young adults in a transition classroom at the Rebecca School, but is on her way to new adventures in sunny California where we know she'll spread the word about SDM. So,

**CONGRATULATIONS NOEL AND ALL HIS SUPPORTERS, AND  
THANKS AND GOOD LUCK TO CARRIE!**