

GREAT NEW PROJECT ALREADY REAPING RESULTS

We know that there are no better ambassadors for supported decision-making (SDM) than our Decision-Makers, and we've recently begun a terrific new project to amplify their voices.



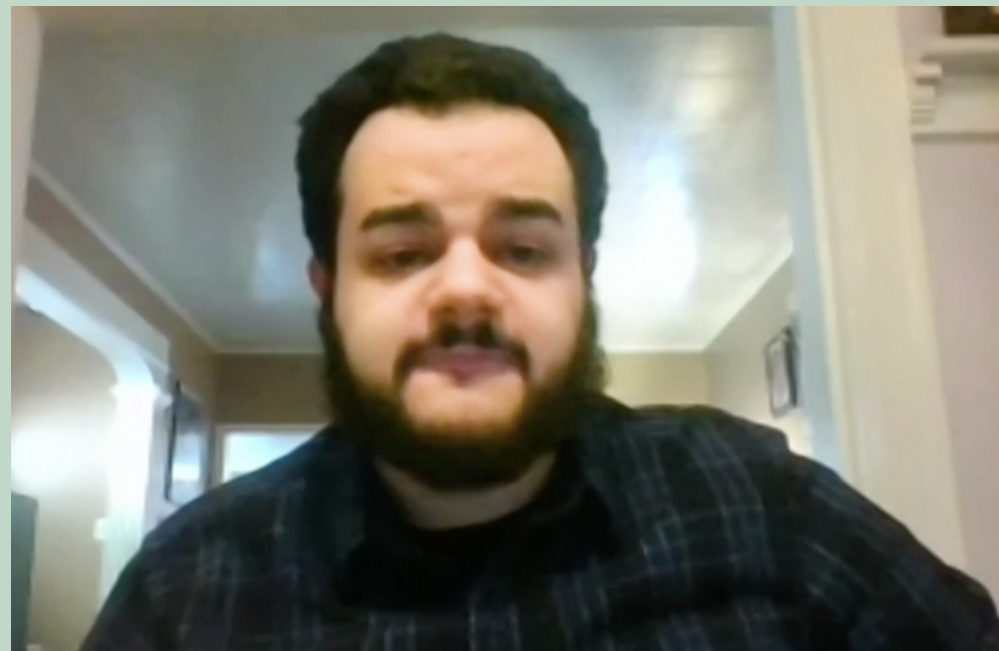
Thanks to our friends at the Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD) we've teamed up with Mariela Adams, who works with the Community Support Network in the Hear Our Voices Self-Advocacy Organization there. Mariela coaches self-advocates to develop their messages and to present those messages in a professional and compelling way.

We asked 10 very diverse Decision-Makers if they would be interested, and every one responded enthusiastically; one said that she was "super excited to be asked to participate" because she was "all about self-advocacy and SDMNY," adding that "using her voice to spread the word about SDMNY is really important to her."

So far we've completed 3 short videos, of Decision-Makers Jessica, Louis and Trina, that you can click on to link below. Each explains, in their own words, what SDM means to them and why it is so important. We love—and are inspired by—these videos, and so is everyone else who sees them! Jessica's was the first completed, and it was the hit of the big YAI Autism conference last month (Good News [4/29/22]) as well as at an online international meeting earlier this week. Louis's video was finished just in time to share with OPWDD as they worked for the successful passage of SDMA legislation in Albany (Good News, [5/27/22]) and we're sure it changed a lot of minds about what people with I/DD can do with just a little support.



Jessica



Louis



Trina

Mariela says,

"Over the last few months, I have had the privilege of getting to know these accomplished, unique and talented Decision-Makers. Their resilience and determination to lead their own path in life has been inspiring. The process of supported decision making empowers them and gives them a sense of agency over their lives. I am grateful for the opportunity to listen to their stories, get to know them and further understand the importance of policies and programs that support these young adults in their adult journeys."

We can't wait to see the rest of the work Mariela and the Decision-Makers are doing, and will share it with you, and on our website, as soon as it's available.

THANKS MARIELA, VIDEOGRAPHER ERINNISSE, AND ALL THE WONDERFUL DECISION-MAKERS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT!

[Jessica Statement Video](#)

[Louis Statement Video](#)

[Trina Statement Video](#)