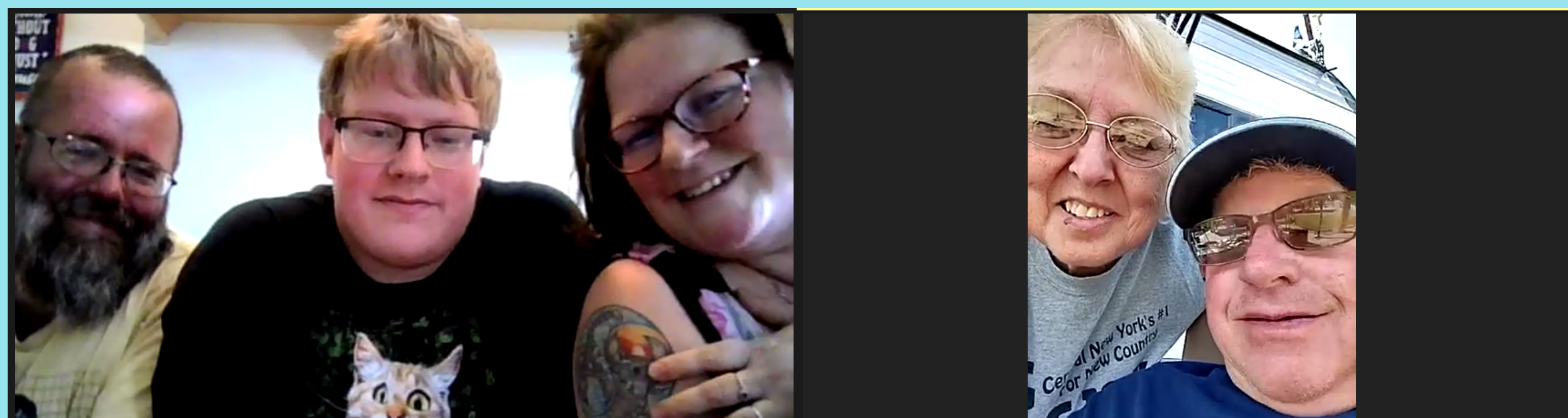


A HAPPY SDMA SIGNING AND A REAL FAMILY AFFAIR

In our experience, most young adults who sign SDMAs choose one or more family members among their supporters. For his SDMA signing last Saturday, Jayden went one further; he chose his mom, stepdad, grandfather, and grandmother, all of whom enthusiastically support his independence and offer their support with great love. The signing took place at his home in New York Mills (it's a small town upstate near Utica) where he lives with his parents; although his grandparents live next door, they "Zoomed in" from a campground where they were on vacation!

Jayden is 21, works for a web design company and volunteers at his parents' church, livestreaming services on YouTube. As you might guess, he's both a tech lover and very tech-savvy, the go-to person on technology issues for anyone in his family, including his grandfather who works in the fire department, as well as folks at the church. His grandmother reports that even one of the teachers from the school Jayden attended still calls him when she has a problem with technology in the classroom! And, of course, he loves video games.



Jayden with his mom and stepdad and Jayden's grandparents

All the supporters commented on what a thoughtful young man Jayden is, and agree that he is "very bright," "weighing his options when he makes decisions and then doing what he feels is necessary." Asked about the SDM facilitation process, Jayden said "It went good. It was a long one, but I think I know more about decision-making than I did in the beginning." He says he intends to use his SDMA when he needs to make a decision he's not sure about, with confidence that his supporters will be available to assist him.



Stephanie

It's also worth noting—and celebrating—that this was facilitator Stephanie's first SDMA signing. Though born in NY, she grew up in Honduras where she was a teacher, and subsequently engaged in her love of travel with a teaching fellowship in Spain before returning to New York for a career in service provision. She joined SDMNY as one of our first group of mentors last fall, (Good News [9/9/2022]) and like all our mentors, has been busy facilitating three Decision-Makers. She reports:

"This [was] my first signing! It was very exciting. I didn't quite know what to expect. I felt very satisfied to hear how proud his family was of Jayden. The progress that we made together was clearly reflected in the dynamic with his supporters, and I know that he will go on to do great things with his new SDMA."

CONGRATULATIONS JAYDEN, YOUR WONDERFUL FAMILY, AND FACILITATOR STEPHANIE!