

GOOD DECISIONS AND SOME GREAT WESTCHESTER RELATIONSHIPS LEAD TO A JOYFUL SDMA SIGNING

Last Tuesday Decision-Maker Paul celebrated his SDMA signing at his home in Eastchester together with five of his nine Supporters, while his brother, one of the supporters attending remotely, Zoomed in from college in North Carolina. In addition to family members, Paul chose two Com Hab workers and several life-long family friends as Supporters; they all concurred on the amazing way that Paul creates community wherever he goes. Everyone noted how he is always “on the go”, whether with friends at weekly bingo night, riding his bike, playing his much loved piano, or seeking out new resources for learning.



DM Paul with Supporter Linda, Supporter Sharon, Aunt Diana, Mom Eleanor, Supporter Patricia, Facilitator Janet

At 25, Paul is already very much an “architect of his own life, as another of our Decision-Makers famously put it ([watch Jessica’s Statement](#)). He made the decision – with support, of course – to attend post-secondary education at Concordia College. He also participated in Project SEARCH and chose to do an internship in the pharmacy at New York Presbyterian (formerly Lawrence) Hospital in Bronxville. Paul enjoyed the experience so much, it is an understatement to say how much his work there was valued, but although he was encouraged to think about a career in pharmacy there was no way to be hired without specialized training as a Pharmaceutical Technician. And so, with that great “go to” spirit, and lots of support from family and friends, he is now enrolled in a program that will make his current career plan a reality.

The decisions Paul has already made have been important, but so have his relationships. He has many friends including one who was a classmate in the Concordia program, and who is currently doing SDM facilitation. She encouraged him to sign up with SDMNY and we hope we’re not telling stories out of school by revealing that her mom is none other than SDMNY Director Naomi Brickell! But the connections/relationships don’t end there. Naomi and Paul’s mom Eleanor are also friends, beginning from Naomi’s days at the Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD) when Naomi’s team helped Eleanor start the program at Concordia, and then hired her to lead Project SEARCH. And to make the connections even stronger, Paul’s facilitator Janet is a Self-Direction Broker at WIHD!

The stars were definitely aligned for Paul’s signing ceremony where, asked how he planned to use his SDMA going forward, he said

“I will reach out to my supporters for help and advice, but I will make the final decisions.... SDM is important to me because it leads to me being independent and a real adult.”

By the decisions he has already made, by the many strong and supportive relationships he enjoys, and by the enthusiasm he brings to everything he does, we are sure that, newly armed with his SDMA, Paul is definitely poised and ready to live his best life.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PAUL AND HIS SUPPORTERS, AND THANKS TO FACILITATOR JANET!