

TWO SDMA SIGNINGS, PART 2: DECISION-MAKER MILES

Last week we began the story of two SDMA signings on the same day for Facilitator Karen, focusing on Decision-Maker Jah. While he and Decision-Maker Miles are different in many ways, they have at least two things in common. Both have extraordinarily committed supporters, and both have friends who had already participated in SDMNY facilitation and signed their own SDMAs. Needless to say, we love learning about how our successes bring new Decision-Makers and their families to SDM and SDMNY.



Miles, riding the New Hope RR steam train

For Miles, who is 23 and lives with his family in Manhattan, the connection was his friend Amelia, who signed her SDMA in 2021 (Good News 5/28/21). There’s a close friendship between the two families, and a special connection to Amelia’s mom, Marguerite, who is Miles’ Self-Direction broker. To be clear, Miles has a lot to direct! Karen describes him as “doing a thousand things,” and as “a superstar with so many talents” (for example, every holiday he makes cookies in special shapes for the occasion). One of his supporters notes his “amazing sense of wonder and curiosity [and] his passion for and knowledge of the things he loves.” Miles is now in his second year at Mount Saint Vincent University; he has always loved trains, and everything about them, and hopes to use his education to build a train-related career!

Because he’s always doing so much, Miles’ facilitation took longer than most. But it was especially rich in the number of people who care about him and who wanted to be supporters, so many, in fact, that for logistical reasons, he eventually had to limit the list down to 7, including his parents Rhonda and Frank, Clare, his pre-school teacher who has stayed in his life ever since (we told you people love him!) and who cried at the signing, Chris and Craig, two relatives with whom he’s become close over the years, Self-Direction broker Marguerite, and Uncle Andy, who employs Miles in his construction business between semesters.



SDMNY’s Joan, Facilitator Karen, Miles with parents and supporters Ronda and Frank, Supporters Craig, Chris, Clare, and Marguerite

The somewhat attenuated facilitation process has given Miles time to use SDM and his supporters for some important decisions. When he began at Mount St. Vincent’s, he commuted daily via the express bus to Riverdale, but, for his second year, has moved into the dorms there, coming home on the weekend. He’s happy with his decision and is proud of the opportunity it has presented for him to make even more new friends.

As we have often said, the SDM facilitation process is transformative for everyone involved and this signing celebration proved the point. Supporter Chris reports that he “had never heard of [SDM], but [was] fascinated and appreciative of everything I’ve experienced.” And, he added, “it allows the bond Miles and [he] have created over the years to continue to grow and thrive.” Observing all of Miles’ interests, and the joy he takes in them has inspired Facilitator Karen to think about new hobbies and activities, and having more fun!

Like Jah, with whom he shares the anniversary of his SDMA signing, we see a bright future as both use SDM and their amazing supporters to truly live “their best lives!”

CONGRATULATIONS TO MILES, HIS SUPPORTERS, AND FACILITATOR KAREN!