



# All About Me



I am a 28 year old Marylander, living with a loving caregiver family, and am loved by my birth family. Unfortunately, I was diagnosed with mental retardation and autism at an early age, affecting my abilities. I relish working and intermingling in the community. Competing at a normal (minimum wage) level in society is not possible, so I volunteer. Behavioral and strategies from past training, used by my caregiver and provider, greatly help me maintain and increase my abilities, in quest toward a higher level of normalcy.

*Choice and Control Matter  
Matter to Me!*



Self-Direction is important to me because it allows choice, a favored concept amongst free citizens. Self-Direction enables me to be an active part of the community, vs. “vegetating” at an inefficient Day-Habilitation center, where my skills and behaviors decrease. Taxpayer money now goes toward Self-Direction funds, allowing me to employ an assistant to take me to worksites and other meaningful activities. Self-Direction provides a worthwhile and rewarding job for my motivated provider, who does a terrific job using learned behavioral conditioning methods to assist me with tasks and interacting in the community. Family and I worry about DDA changes to Self-Direction being made by self-serving, dispassionate, and disorganized DDA bureaucrats, chronically wasting time, money, and resources; negatively affecting me, my peers, those who care for our wellbeing, and the taxpayer.

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