

Name: Dominic Na
Date of Birth: June 17, 1998 (26 years old)
Address: 5475 Hound Hill Ct., Columbia, MD 21045
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Diagnosis: Autism
Service: DDA Self-Directed Services (SDS)

Background & Challenges Before SDS (Traditional CDS Program):

- **Limited opportunities for volunteering, employment training, and personal development.**
- **Sensory sensitivities, especially to loud noises (e.g., babies crying), led to anxiety and distress.**
- **Difficulty engaging in community activities, limiting his personal and social growth.**

Improvements After SDS (Personalized 1:1 Support):

- **Higher Education:** Attends **Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC)**, expanding his learning opportunities.
- **Sports & Fitness:** Actively participates in **Special Olympics Howard County & Maryland**.
- **Community Inclusion:** Regularly visits **stores, concert halls, and public spaces** with greater ease.
- **Personal Growth:** Significant improvement in **self-regulation and sensory management** (e.g., can now tolerate noisy environments and even acknowledges **babies as "cute"**).

Why SDS Matters:

- **Provides essential individualized support** for learning, independence, and skill development.
- **Enhances social engagement**, helping individuals integrate into their communities.
- **Empowers individuals with disabilities** to live meaningful, fulfilling lives.

Call to Action:

Protect DDA funding to ensure continued support for individuals like Dominic!

