

Name: Charles Im
Date of Birth: July 18, 1997 (27 years old)
Address: 4101 Colie Dr Silver Spring, MD 20906
Email: charles.im20906@gmail.com
Phone: (301)455-3087
Diagnosis: Autism and Mental Health Disorder
Service: DDA Self-Directed Services (SDS)

Background & Challenges Before SDS (Traditional CDS Program):

- Limited opportunities for volunteering, employment training, and personal development .
- Difficulty getting along with strangers and in large groups which caused anxiety and distress.
- Difficulty engaging in community activities , limiting his personal and social growth.
- Was very depressed/agitated and gained much weight
- Was reluctant to go outside of house

Improvements After SDS (Personalized 1:1 Support):

- Spending 1 on 1 time with his mother in the community has helped him become more comfortable in public and around others and has gained more confidence.
- His weight has come down to normal as well as his overall mood has become brighter.
- Personal Growth: Has been attending a Saturday class and starting to engage in the activities and coming out of his safe place. Charles has becoming calmer in crowded environments.
- Our wish is for Charles to gain as much of his independence as possible with our help and the other DDA SDA services.

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 Charles!