



We Have Choices

A statement from the Board of the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State, Inc. about our new video

October 2010

The Board of the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State, Inc. (SANYS) is very proud of our ***We have Choices*** video. We made this video in partnership with OPWDD and many other people and organizations, including DDPC, the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, which, along with OMRDD supported our efforts at developing some of the original ideas about choice that we call Wheel Power. There is a short section on the DVD extras that talks about wheel power and choices.

We created We Have Choices because we wanted to show people with developmental disabilities living their lives as full and contributing citizens of their communities. Here is what we wrote on the back of the DVD:

We Have Choices is a documentary exploring the full lives people with developmental disabilities experience when they are supported to live in a place they have chosen to call home, in the community of their choice, with supports they, their family, and their friends have helped create. This is a film about history, self-advocacy, family, community, relationships, love, respect, challenges and opportunities.

The film focuses on people who are living in their own apartments and homes, for the most part without 24-hour support. But it is important that you know that people can live with choice and individualized services no matter how much support they need, as many do now in New York.

We want to thank our good friend Jerry Smith, from the University of Minnesota, the filmmaker, who helped us tell the story of choices on this great video.

SANYS Board of Directors

Some questions for discussion:

From the stories in the film, what is different about the relationship that people have with staff, who provide support for people who live in their own place compared to people who live in group homes?

What is different about the relationships that people have with members of their community compared to more traditional group living arrangements?

What are some of the choices people who are profiled in the film make on a daily basis?

If you would like a copy of the film, please send a free will donation to cover the cost of mailing to:

Self-Advocacy Association of NY State
Building 12
500 Balltown Rd.
Schenectady, NY 12304