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Freedom for the Very First Time in Her Life!!!

March 15, 2010 - Canton, MI - The first principle of Self-Determination is **FREEDOM** and that's *exactly* what Canton resident Ila Volante has for the first time in her young life!

Volante had her rights restored on February 9th by Wayne County Probate Judge Martin Maher. "I'm really happy and proud," said Volante. "I want to make my own decisions and now I'm able to. I like being my own guardian!"

From the beginning of her life and up through her 20's, Volante's mother was her guardian, but the two didn't agree on how her life should be lived. A public guardian,



Laura Hannum of Faith Connections, a guardianship organization, was appointed while Volante worked on her relationship with her mother. Although she was happy with her guardian, she still wanted to be independent, so six years ago she began the process of taking control of her own life.

Volante met with Community Living Services Advocacy Specialist, Joe Zwally and pleaded her case. Faith Connections Executive Director Rebecca Bringman had her concerns about moving forward with this but did not contest the request. After assessing the case, it was determined that Volante was capable of making her own life choices and she became her own guardian!

CLS Personal Agent (social worker) Hawanya Jackson and Hannum were by Volante's side every step of the way. "She needed people to believe in her and we certainly did! She deserves to be in control of her own life," said Jackson.

Volante receives supports and services from Community Living Services, Inc. CLS is a non-profit organization providing supports and services to more than 3,000 people with developmental disabilities in Wayne County. CLS is funded through the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency. For more info, visit our web site at www.comlivserv.com.



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