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# STRIVE Newsletter

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APRIL 2012

## The Unveiling of the New STRIVE Logo

Created by Kemp Goldberg Partners



It is with great excitement and appreciation that STRIVE unveils this new refreshed logo. Thank you to Zach Brockhouse, Ron Harrity and Alex Kemp of Kemp Goldberg Partners and Brian Fitzgerald of Fitzgerald Photography for helping to create STRIVE's new logo and 12 page brochure. This has been a yearlong project that STRIVE is excited to unveil. You can find the new logo and brochure on the STRIVE website [www.pslstrive.org](http://www.pslstrive.org) or on our Facebook page [facebook.com/STRIVENation](http://facebook.com/STRIVENation).

## 2012 STRIVE Rocks! Wright Express Dance Marathon

The 2012 STRIVE Rocks! Wright Express Dance Marathon Presented by MEMIC was a huge success! Thank you to the dancers, volunteers and many sponsors who helped to make this event amazing!

With your help STRIVE raised \$40,121.93 at this year's Dance Marathon and had over 450 dancers and 100 volunteers participate!

Thank you to our financial sponsors and in-kind donations:

- |                                 |                                |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Title Sponsor, Wright Express   | Susan Sinnett-Zumba            | Time Warner Cable-Gift Baskets |
| Presenting Sponsor, MEMIC       | Coca-Cola-Soda Donation        | Unified Technologies & UNUM-   |
| Martin's Point                  | Hannaford-Food Donations       | Red Claws Game Tickets         |
| Rowe Westbrook                  | Oakhurst-Orange Juice Donation | Sea Dogs-Game Tickets          |
| Unified Technologies            | Music and Moore-Lights and     | Portland Pirates-Game Tickets  |
| Shannon Moss-Emcee              | DJ equipment                   | Funtown Splashtown-            |
| Walter Selens-Massage           | Q97.9-PSAs and Trent           | Park Passes                    |
| Jackie Major-Tarot Card         | Montgomery, Pageant Host       | The Sheriffs Department-Boston |
| Readings                        | One Stop Party Shoppe-         | Bruins tickets                 |
| Aaron Williams-Polarity Therapy | Moon Bounce                    | Bands-The 302 Clearwater       |
| Sara Brown-Slideshow            | Portland Kiwanis-\$500         | Benders, Hello Newman and      |
| Presentation                    | College Scholarship            | SPOSE                          |

### Mission Statement

To assist tweens, teens and young adults with intellectual and emotional disabilities in utilizing resources within their community so they can participate as viable members of the community.

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# STRIVE NEWS

## STRIVE Developing New Community Supports Program

STRIVE is currently developing a new community supports program which will be in addition to the current PSL community supports program based out of Foden Road, and builds off the success of our independent living curriculum at STRIVE U. The new program will be a hybrid of our STRIVE U Residential Program and our Next STEP Program. The new program, which has not yet been named, will support people with disabilities to expand their independent living capacity and community integration based on their present living situation and to prepare them for potential independent living situations in the future.

The Program will utilize as its foundation the curriculum and training techniques developed by STRIVE U and adapt them to a community supports (section 29) program. Participants will be participating in a focused, time limited program that is centered on expanding participant's abilities for independence in all areas of life skills and expanded community integration. The goal will be to increase independence within the living situation the person is in. The areas include transportation, banking/money management, self-advocacy, employment, health and safety, cleaning, relationships, community connections, laundry and shopping.

The program will be two years in duration and participants would need to have access to the section 29 or private pay at that rate. There would be a third optional year where the program would work with participants to transition to work, other programs, or community connections. In addition the program could provide private pay options to assist those who want to live more independently or continue to work on goals in their homes.

**We are involved in discussions to run this program out of student housing complex in downtown Portland. The program would begin in the Fall of 2012. We would like to hear from you! Are you interested in this program? Please contact us at [info@pslstrive.org](mailto:info@pslstrive.org) or (207) 774-6278 to be added to a list of interested parties. We will be sure to keep you posted. We welcome your feedback and ideas.**

## STRIVE U News

### **STRIVE U Experience Weekend** Applications available May 1, 2012

Here's your chance to learn more about the STRIVE U Program. We'll be hosting a weekend-long seminar September 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> at Camp Tall Pines in Poland, Maine.

The cost is \$285.00 and includes everything!  
25 applicants will be accepted on a first come first serve basis, subject to program availability.

### **STRIVE U Spring Open House**

Come and see what STRIVE U is all about!

Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012

Time: 12:00pm-6:00pm

Place: 12 Nye Street, Portland, ME 04101

First day applications for the STRIVE U Experience will be available! For more information on the STRIVE U Experience Weekend and Spring Open House, contact Erin Berg at 207-774-6278 or [eberg@pslservices.org](mailto:eberg@pslservices.org).

# STRIVE NEWS

## Next STEP: STRIVE's Transitional Education Program

We continue to be very busy at Next Step! With the great weather we are getting out as much as possible including walks on the Eastern Trail in Scarborough, the Old Port, MacWorth Island, and excursions around Foden Road.

We had a tour of WCSH with Bill Green. It was very exciting to check out the weather room and to get a chance see how the filming works. We also had a tour of Shaw Brothers Construction Company thanks to our friend Tom. This included individual rides in a huge earth mover.



We continue to volunteer at the Root Cellar each week and hope to have a second location soon. We are continuing our work on budgeting, emotional health, and have been doing some work around employment as well. We recently picked up job applications from Hannaford to practice how to fill out the forms and explore what we might be interested in.

Next STEP has a new student launched website which is updated every week!

Check it out at [www.pslstrive.org](http://www.pslstrive.org) on the Next STEP page!

**If you have any questions about Next Step or ideas about activities we can be involved in please contact Bill Hughes at (207) 774-6278 or [info@pslstrive.org](mailto:info@pslstrive.org).**

## STRIVE U Works

Intensive work is underway with Second Year students and their quest for employment after graduation. Our thanks to Pro Search for giving us access to online skill assessment tests. In addition to learning about their strengths and what skills to further develop, students are also learning test taking strategies.

Employment partnerships with companies and organizations such as American Red Cross, Berry Dunn, Disability RMS, Hannaford, L. L. Bean, Macdonald Page & Co., MEMIC have provided valuable training grounds for our students.

A first year student did a tremendous job as a panel speaker at a recent Opportunity Alliance gathering in Westbrook. STRIVE U students can be counted on to step up to challenges and to be successful leaders and advocates!

**Please contact MaryAnn Schwanda, Employment Coordinator to find out the many benefits of becoming a STRIVE U Employment Partner at [mschwanda@pslservices.org](mailto:mschwanda@pslservices.org) or call 207-774-6278.**

# Volunteer & Member News

## Thank you March STRIVE Supporters!

Henry & Monica Recknagel  
 Robert Junkins  
 Bruce McFarland  
 Kathleen & Michael Bouchard  
 Judith Garland  
 Brian Scanlon/Kalya Zomlefer  
 Craig & Suzanne Fetherolf  
 Cynthia & Larry Vaughan  
 Esther & Paul Pappas  
 National Semiconductor  
 Employee Giving  
 Gorham Savings Bank  
 Mark and Suzanne Dobrovolny

Aline Belanger  
 Charles Mercer  
 Aric & Jessica Walton  
 Ameriprise Financial  
 Employee Matching  
 Gift Program  
 Susan Pynchon  
  
**In Honor and In Memory**  
 Elizabeth and James Huebener, In Honor of Paul Sandberg  
 CW Financial Services in Memory of Rose Sinclair  
 Barbara West, In Memory of Robert E. West Jr.

## TWEENS

**Are you between the ages of 11 and 14?  
 Are you looking to make some new friends?!**  
**Then join us every Friday afternoon from  
 3:30 to 5:30 at the STRIVE Center!**



### APRIL SCHEDULE

April 6: Spring Time Gardening and games  
 April 13: Fun activities with UNUM  
 April 20: Safari night with Gary & spring carnival  
 April 27: Hula Lesson

## Easy Ways to Help Support STRIVE!



### Follow Us on Facebook

Daily Updates  
 STRIVE Pictures

To stay connected visit:  
[facebook.com/STRIVENation](https://facebook.com/STRIVENation)



### Can Redemption Program

Get a Green Bag at STRIVE & drop off your cans at a Hannaford Grocery Store. The deposits will go to STRIVE! Every 5 cents counts!



*There's no reason not to.  
 You search... We give!*

**Change your Search Engine**  
 Change your search Engine to GoodSearch and pick STRIVE as your charity!

For each search you do, 1¢ is donated to STRIVE!



STRIVE has started a "Legacy Program" and would be happy to discuss how to write in our organization into your planned giving account.

## April Camp

**Join STRIVE for April Camp!**  
**Monday, April 16th—Friday, April 20th**  
**Camp runs from 9:00am-5:00pm**

April 16th: Trail mix & Bradbury Mountain  
 April 17th: Banana bread, Alpaca Farm & Payson Park  
 April 18th: Deering Oaks & a Sea Dogs Game  
 April 19th: Popcorn, a movie & visit Fort Williams  
 April 20th: Apple pies, Mackworth Island & Willard Beach

**Cost is \$45 per day or \$200 for 5 days.**  
**Contact Brianna at (207) 774-6278 or**  
**[info@pslservices.org](mailto:info@pslservices.org).**

## Run Beach to Beacon for STRIVE

Did you miss out on registering for Beach to Beacon? STRIVE can still get you in!

We have 20 bib numbers up for grabs in exchange for fundraising! We ask that every STRIVE runner raises \$300 in exchange for a bib number. Act fast because they are going quickly!

Contact STRIVE at (207) 774-6278  
 or [info@pslstrive.org](mailto:info@pslstrive.org) for more information.



Spring Carnival  
STRIVE Night!  
April 20th



Join us for some spring time fun!



### Member Spotlight



**Toriann Harriman**  
**2nd Year STRIVE U Student**

**Age:** 21  
**Favorite TV Show:** Prison Break  
**Favorite Color:** Purple  
**Favorite Holiday:** Christmas—I spend it with my family  
**Dream Job:** To work with children with Autism  
**Favorite Band:** Taylor Swift  
**Favorite Actor:** Van Diesel  
**Something you are good at:** Horseback Riding  
**Favorite Thing at STRIVE U:** Community Outreach

## APRIL Birthdays

Megan Miller	April 3	Sylvia Lynn Landry	April 17	Stephanie Merrill	April 24
Kevin Cordier	April 4	Stephanie Sinclair	April 17	Ben Valle	April 25
Devan Libbey	April 5	Jonathan Edwards	April 17	Sabrina Nixon	April 26
Jeremy Ricker	April 5	Michael Norton	April 18	Erica Gervais	April 28
Rebecca Libby	April 7	Allie Fredette	April 19	Mary Jessica Cooke	April 28
Danielle Gaudette	April 9	Joel Spadinger	April 19	McKensy Brown	April 28
Gus Recknagel	April 9	Joannah Napoleone	April 19	Donald Tibbetts	April 29
Michael Thompson	April 10	Timothy Nason	April 21	Kevin Brown	April 29
April Watson	April 10	Tyler Bals	April 21	Yajira Dueno	April 30
Dorothy Stanely	April 11	Charlie Rhode	April 22	John Paul Brower	April 30
Bradley LaPointe	April 13	Alex Doten	April 23	Brendon Young	April 30
Trevor Perry	April 14	Abby Theriault	April 24		
Karen Esposito	April 16,	Keith Conley Johnson	April 24		

Happy Birthday From STRIVE!

## Employment Supports for Youth in Transition

### Announcing the second in a series of presentations in 2012 sponsored by PSL/ STRIVE.

*Employment Supports for Youth in Transition: what services are available and how can you prepare for future employment.*

Are you interested in learning what supports may be available to assist youth with disabilities to gain employment as well as provide information on what youth and their families can do to prepare for employment as they transition to adult services?

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 24th from 6:00-8:00PM

**WHERE:** STRIVE at 28 Foden Road in South Portland, Maine

Lisa Sturtevant: DHHS- Developmental Services

Jennifer Kimball: Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Services (WIPA)

Mary Ann Schwanda: STRIVE U Employment Coordinator Vocational Rehabilitation

For more information contact STRIVE at (207) 774-6278 or [info@pslstrive.org](mailto:info@pslstrive.org).

### Wednesday Night Educational Series

#### Healthy Relationships

*Wednesday Nights 6:00-8:00pm*

*June 20-August 29*

The most popular class of the year! SARSSM will run this 10 week course and provide students with information about dating safety and healthy relationships.

**Each series is \$20. For more information or to register, contact Lisa Yanzer at 207-774-6278 or [lyanzer@pslservices.org](mailto:lyanzer@pslservices.org). Space is limited—sign up early!**

### Monday Night Personal Wellness Class Series

#### Summer Fun Series

*Monday Nights from 5:30-7:00pm*

*June 26—August 6*

Every week we will do a different summer camp activity: tie dye, make s'mores, play games, have fun outside, garden, and for the last week we will have a camp dance!

**Each series is \$20. For more information or to register, contact Lisa Yanzer at 774-6278 or [lyanzer@pslservices.org](mailto:lyanzer@pslservices.org).**

### April Meetings & Events

#### Wednesday Night Educational Class

##### Healthy Relationships

June 20-August 29

6:00-8:00pm

#### Monday Personal Wellness Class Series

##### Summer Fun Series

June 26—August 6

5:30—7:00pm

#### Kiwanis Aktion Club

Wednesday, April 11th and 25th

Contact Kristina Smalley for more info at 207-774-6278 or [ksmalley@pslservices.org](mailto:ksmalley@pslservices.org).

#### Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, April 6th and 20th

#### STRIVE Theme Night: Spring Carnival

Friday, April 20th

6:00-9:00pm

#### Employment Supports for Youth in Transition

Thursday, May 24th

6:00-8:00pm



# STRIVE Pictures



Deering High School Students - Olivia Wilkins, Nathan Finberg, Jamie Gullbrand, Tim Devlin, and STRIVE U Student Derrick Charette



STRIVE U Student, Kate McHale, and JJ Sarapas trying out the Sumo Wrestling Suits



80's Hour—what great costumes!



The Big Reveal—we raised \$40,121.93!



Some of the STRIVE Staff stop for a picture!



STRIVE U Students Kevin Brown, Erica Gervais, Katie Christianson and Lindsey St. Peter



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*Serving tweens, teens and  
young adults with  
developmental disabilities*

[www.facebook.com/strivenation](http://www.facebook.com/strivenation)



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**[www.pslstrive.org](http://www.pslstrive.org)**

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