



www.pslstrive.org

# STRIVE Newsletter

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2011

## 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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Thanks to our Supporters for Making 2011 a Great Year!

## Happy Holidays from your friends at STRIVE!

During the Holiday Season more than ever, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. And in this spirit we say, simply but sincerely—  
*Thank You and Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.*

Some 2011 highlights include: our 7th Annual Live and Silent Auction and raising a record breaking \$32,000 for STRIVE programs; winning the Finance Authority of Maine's Education Award; becoming the beneficiary of the 2012 and 2013 Maine Marathon; continuing to build on our relationship with the Red Claws; holding a first time breakfast fundraiser with the Portland Sea Dogs; and completing the STRIVE U Capital Campaign.

We couldn't have achieved these great successes without our many supporters and friends. STRIVE is fortunate to have donors, volunteers, and friends who provide a framework of success for the program! We would like to thank the volunteer leadership involved with our programs, including the PSL Services Board of Directors, and the STRIVE and STRIVE U Steering Committees, and the many subcommittees of these groups- including; Dance Marathon Committee, Auction Committee, Capital Campaign Committee, Admissions Committee, PR Committee, Development Committee, Advocacy Committee, and more.

### PSL Board of Directors

Jason Briggs, President  
Glenn Johnson  
Stephanie Fairchild  
Tom McKeon  
Kathy Son  
Joe Smith  
Chris Martin

### STRIVE Steering Committee

Chris Cameron  
Bob MacMath  
Jean Roberts  
Charlie Mercer  
Aric Walton  
Karen Johnson

Betsy Morrison  
Matt Dicianni  
Amy Saffian  
Steve Frawley  
Peter Sellwood  
Janet DiBiase  
Christine Hultgren

### STRIVE U Steering Committee

David Thompson  
Paula Thompson  
Chadd Taplin  
Kay Rand  
Stacy Stewart  
Tim Agnew  
Steve Jordan  
Mary Jewers

Rachel Williams-Clifford  
Jim Clifford  
Lynn Spadinger

# STRIVE NEWS

## 3 Points for STRIVE



### 3 POINTS FOR STRIVE

196 3 Pointers were made in the 2010-11 Season

Serving Tweens, Teens & Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities

CHECK ONE:  Company Challenge  Individual Gift  Employer Matching Gift

I/we pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ per 3 pointer made by a Red Claws player during the 2011-2012 season.

I/we understand I/we will be billed following the season- after the total 3 pointers has been calculated.

I/we would prefer to make a contribution in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Check enclosed

Please send me an invoice May 1 following the 2011-12 Maine Red Claws season.

Contributor's name or company contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Donating Company (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Contributor's mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Make Checks Payable to: STRIVE  
28 Foden Road, South Portland, ME 04106  
www.pslstrive.org  
207.774.6278



Become a part of STRIVE's partnership with the Maine Red Claws! Cut out the pledge card and send it into STRIVE. You can pledge a one-time donation or an amount per 3-pointer made during the season!

We're also pleased to have Hammond Lumber Company as our title sponsor and Anthem as an associate sponsor.

Don't forget to Join STRIVE on

April 7th, 2012 for a Night Out to see the Red Claws! STRIVE has 40 tickets to give away. Contact Kristina at [ksmalley@pslservices.org](mailto:ksmalley@pslservices.org) or (207) 774-6278 for more information.

## Next STEP: STRIVE's Transitional Education Program

Next STEP is currently focused on the areas of nutrition and self-advocacy. We are using STRIVE U and other curriculum to help understand good food choices, maintaining a healthy lifestyle and learning basic and safe cooking skills. Our work in self-advocacy is a combination of understanding the basic rights everyone has as well as the responsibilities that go along with those rights. In addition, we are exploring the self-advocacy movement for people with disabilities both here in Maine and nationally. Representatives from Speaking Up for Us (SUFU) did a group presentation at the end of November.

In addition to this, our friends from the Community Support Program invited us to both their Halloween and Thanksgiving celebrations, we traveled to the Portland Public Library by bus, had a tour of the Art Museum, and have a tour of the Lyric Theater planned, which is presently doing "Meet me in St. Louis".

Contact Bill Hughes with any questions or to set up at tour at [bhughes@pslservices.org](mailto:bhughes@pslservices.org) or (207) 774-6278.

Everyone at Next Step wishes you a happy holiday season!

# STRIVE NEWS

## STRIVE U Works

STRIVE U first year students did a great job with their mock interviews at Market Decisions! We have reviewed their taped sessions and students are well prepared for successful interviews. Our thanks to Brian Brinegar for his continued support.

Xpress Copy recently interviewed and hired a first year STRIVE U student to work in their bindery department, with the plan to increase hours for additional training in digital printing and customer service.

A second year student had a successful interview and job offer from Macdonald Page. She will begin her paid internship in January during what promises to be a busy tax season. MEMIC has hired a STRIVE U graduate for a permanent part-time position. Again, we thank the MEMIC team for their continued support of STRIVE U's mission.

A second year student recently began volunteering in the Teen Room of the Portland Public Library. The librarian reports he has proven to be a fast learner and has made great strides in keeping their section orderly! This student is passionate about books and is eager to share his knowledge with others.

Recent job shadows include Systems Engineering, where a student was able to explore the work of various departments including Help Desk, Customer Service, and Shop Technicians who demonstrated how a server is built; Cartridge World, where a student learned about quality measurement & assurance tools, the features of inkjet versus laser print cartridges and how a number of very busy people work successfully in a very small space! Time Warner is also hosting two students for a half-day, live training job shadow opportunity in Customer Care. More job shadowing opportunities are in the pipeline. We are grateful to the companies that support the employment education efforts of STRIVE U. Job shadows are an important part of career discovery, employment placement and ultimate job satisfaction of STRIVE U students and graduates.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

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

## STRIVE U Class of 2014

**STRIVE U Class of 2014  
Applications now available!**

STRIVE U provides post-secondary education and training to young adults with developmental disabilities. If you're hoping to be part of the Class of 2014, which moves in Summer of 2012, now is the time to apply!

Applications must be returned to the admissions office by February 1, 2012. To request an application or for more information contact Erin Berg at (207) 774-6278 or [eberg@pslservices.org](mailto:eberg@pslservices.org).



# Volunteer & Member News

## Thank you STRIVE Supporters!

Thank you to everyone who donated to STRIVE in November!  
We appreciate your generous support.

Cynthia & Lawrence Vaughn  
Dale & Linda Wilson  
Robert Junks  
William Gourde  
Lisa Bowie  
Ellen Mugar  
Charlene McHale  
Nicholas Vaughan  
Patrick & Karen Callaghan  
Ruth Hefflefinger  
Bruce & Suzanne Jones  
Peter & Karen Jannace  
James & Catherine Brown  
Elaine Smalley  
Nancy & Timothy Pickens

Edward Goodstein &  
Francesca Eastman  
Marjorie Twombly  
Lea Tunney  
Alice Husted  
Jeffrey Crockett & Family  
Tom, Jane & Alex Kane  
Carlos Montgomery  
Michael & Janet Collins  
David & Fela Shapell Family Foundation  
Village Cleaning Service &  
Kathy DiMaddio  
Peter & Rosemary Goranites  
Jon & Gisele Wine  
Michelle Hallett

## Foreside Tavern Fundraiser

Support STRIVE and enjoy a great meal at  
Foreside Tavern in Falmouth!

On January 16th there will be an all day  
fundraiser at Foreside Tavern where a percentage  
of the day's profits will go directly to STRIVE.

We hope to see you there! Thank you to Foreside  
Tavern for this great opportunity.



## Easy Ways to Help Support STRIVE!



### Follow Us on Facebook

Daily Updates  
STRIVE Pictures

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

## 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!**

### December's Calendar of Events:

- December 2nd: 12th Anniversary Party
- December 9th: Holiday cookies
- December 16th: Gingerbread Houses
- December 23: Snow Ball
- December 30th: New Year's Party



## Aktion Club

**December is a special month for Aktion Club!  
Throughout the year they raise funds to support  
a family for the holidays!**

Aktion Club is proud to support a local family and has raised  
over \$300 to do so!

### **Aktion Club December Meeting Dates:**

December 7th and 21st

If you would like to learn more about Aktion Club please  
contact Kristina at [ksmalley@pssl-services.org](mailto:ksmalley@pssl-services.org) or  
(207) 774-6278.



## December Snow Balls at STRIVE!

Join us for two very special Snow Balls at STRIVE Night

Deering High School will be here for a Snow Ball on Friday, December 16th

STRIVE's own Snow Ball will be on December 23rd!

See you then!



**Member Spotlight:**  
**Erica Boivin**

**Age: 21**

**Favorite Movie: The Last Unicorn**

**Favorite Color: Turquoise**

**Favorite Holiday: Her birthday**

**Favorite Thing You've Done at STRIVE: Toured the University of Southern Maine Campus**

**Dream Job: Actress**

**If You Could Pick Any Actor to Star in Your Life Story: Alan Rickman (played Professor Snape in Harry Potter)**



## December Birthdays



Michael Godin	December 1
Heather MacLean	December 4
Jimmy Makowiecki	December 4
Clifford Page	December 5
Brittany Gooch	December 7
Sherry Wheeler	December 8
Megan Tucker	December 8
Daniel Kelloway	December 9
Chandler Hawkes	December 10
Caitlin Killarney	December 12

Michael Gregorie	December 12
Zach Hansen	December 14
Julia Hildreth	December 14
Daisy Hutchins	December 16
Joey Spiller	December 17
Carmen LaPointe	December 17
Kate McHale	December 19
Karla Dennison	December 20
Jun Yang Lin	December 20
Zach Conley	December 21

Ben Gulino	December 23
Megen McCormack	December 23
Robert Mendillo	December 24
Kate McKillop	December 24
Brian Hopkins	December 24
Megan Squiess	December 25
Adorra Small	December 27
Julie Williams	December 28
Simon Harrison	December 28
Anthony Koutsivitis	December 31

Happy Birthday From STRIVE!

# Members' Page

## 2012 Personal Wellness and Educational Class Series

### Personal Wellness Class Series Monday Nights 5:30-7:00pm

**Art Extravaganza: Jan 9– Feb 27**  
We will focus on a different art form every week (photography, painting, stamping, drawing, watercolors, beading, etc.) Let your inner artist out!

**Zumba Gold Dance Craze: March 26– April 21**  
Zumba is a popular class here and a mix of aerobics and Latin dance. Certified Zumba Gold instructor Becki Jaques leads you through the Fun way to get in shape for summer! Great for a wide range of physical abilities!

**Summer FUN: June 25– Aug 6**  
Every week we will do a different summer camp activity: Tie Dye, Make s'mores, Learn songs, Learn skits, play camp games, have fun outside and we will end with a big camp dance!

**Personal Safety: Sept 10– Oct. 29**  
In this course, students will learn how to protect themselves at all times. From walking safety to online safety, this course will provide students with the necessary tools to be alert and stay safe.

**A taste of the world: Nov 5– Dec. 17**  
Come experience a new part of the world every week here at STRIVE! We will learn about a new part of the world every week, talk about their culture and make some food from that culture.

### Educational Class Series Wednesday Nights 6:00-8:00pm

**Social Etiquette: Jan 4– Feb 15**  
Practice and learn social etiquette for the various social situation you might be in! Meeting new people, telephone, meals, email, street etiquette and much more!

**Community Connections: March 7–May 2**  
Do you know all the amazing opportunities your community has to offer you? Come and learn about the different opportunities that are in your community!

**Healthy Relationships: June 20–Aug 29**  
This Popular Class series is back! SARSSM will run this 10-week course and provide students with information about dating safety and healthy relationships. Limited Space SIGN UP EARLY!

**House Hold Responsibility: Sept 5– Oct 24**  
Cooking, cleaning, meal planning, and many more responsibilities around the house. Come and learn about different house hold responsibilities and how to be more independent.

**Job Preparation: Nov 7– Dec. 19**  
Learn all the skills you need to land a job including: resume building, interview practice, job etiquette and other important things to know about the working world.

**Each series is \$20. For more information or to register, contact Lisa Yanzer at 774-6387 or [lyanzer@psslservices.org](mailto:lyanzer@psslservices.org).**

## December Events

Advisory Board Meeting:  
December 2nd, 16th and 30th from 5:00-5:30pm

Aktion Club:  
December 7th and 21st from 3:30-4:00pm

12th Anniversary STRIVE Night, Volunteer Appreciation and Dance Marathon Kick-off:  
Friday, December 2 from 6:00—9:00pm

Winter Camp:  
Tuesday, December 27— Friday, December 30  
9:00am—5:00pm

### On the Horizon:

Dance Marathon:  
March 3-4

Red Claws Game:  
April 7th(STRIVE has 40 tickets to give away!)

**SNOW CLOSINGS:** Call STRIVE at (207) 774-6278 or visit Channel 6 at [http://www.wcsh6.com/weather/resources/text\\_alert/default.aspx](http://www.wcsh6.com/weather/resources/text_alert/default.aspx) to sign up for free text message cancellations from Channel 6. Register by entering your mobile phone number and checking the box next to STRIVE and/or PSL Services listed under School Closings-Maine Private and Colleges.

**Thank You to Deering High School who is participating in November (no shave November) and giving their proceeds to STRIVE!**

## Winter Camp

Join us for STRIVE's Winter Camp!

Tuesday, December 27th—Friday, December 30th  
Cost is \$45/day or \$180 for all four days  
Camp runs from 9am—5pm

We'll be doing lots of fun activities including arts and crafts, games, and snow tubing!



Contact Brianna McCabe at 207-774-6278 or [bmccabe@psslservices.org](mailto:bmccabe@psslservices.org) for more information or to sign up.

# STRIVE Pictures



Happy Holidays from the STRIVE Smurfs!



STRIVE is proud to announce that our "Alumni Volunteer of the Year" award will be presented to Chadd Taplin (pictured above) at our 12th Anniversary Party and Volunteer Appreciation on Friday, December 2nd at 7:00pm. Volunteer of the Year, goes to Aric Walton and Volunteered of the Year goes to Amy Arno. Thank you to those who won and to all of our wonderful volunteers!



A beautiful shed built and donated to STRIVE by Jesse Lowell and troop 86 in Gray



Next STEP on a trip to Flatbread Pizza in Portland

Do you have pictures that you would like to share with us? If so please send them to [info@pslstrive.org](mailto:info@pslstrive.org)





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28 Foden Road  
South Portland, ME 04106

Phone: 207-774-6278

Fax: 207-774-7695

Email: [info@pslstrive.org](mailto:info@pslstrive.org)

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

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

### Visit our website:

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

- Sign up for the STRIVE e-mail list
- Latest news
- Upcoming events
- View past newsletters

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### **STRIVE U Staff**

#### **Bill Hughes**

STRIVE U and Next STEP Program Manager  
[bhughes@pslservices.org](mailto:bhughes@pslservices.org)

#### **Mara Sullivan:**

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#### **Erin Berg:**

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#### **Katie Collins:**

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#### **Liz Guillerault**

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