



www.pslstrive.org

STRIVE Newsletter

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2014

Exciting News from STRIVE!

PSL Services and STRIVE are excited to announce that on Friday, November 21st, we purchased the STRIVE Center at 28 Foden Rd!

Ownership of the building will assist in making our budget more sustainable and allow us to focus on creating additional opportunities for the clients and families we serve! This purchase would not have been possible without the hard work of many team members and the generosity of local businesses and organizations. We are thrilled to announce that we have received a \$325,000 challenge grant from The Lunder Foundation to assist with the costs to purchase the building and costs moving forward. As this year comes to a close, we hope that you consider joining us in completing this challenge and reach our \$325,000 goal! More details of Phase 2 of the project will be announced at our 15th Anniversary Celebration.

For more information on our campaign, please contact Peter Brown at pbrown@pslservices.org or call 207.879.0847

Join us as We Celebrate STRIVE—Past, Present, and Future



January 24th, 2015 at 6pm
Italian Heritage Center
Portland, Maine

Cost: \$25 per person or \$10 per STRIVE member
Members who qualify for scholarships on Friday Nights pay their scholarship price!
FMI—contact Katelynn at kdavis@pslservices.org or call 774.6278

This event will include a full buffet, dancing with music from the J.C. Underhill Band, a keynote presentation from Shonda Schilling, wife of former Red Sox Pitcher, Curt Schilling, and author of *The Best Kind of Different*. Her book will also be available for purchase at the event.

Invitations will be in the mail soon!

To learn more, contact Peter Brown at pbrown@pslservices.org or call 879.0847

STRIVE's 15th Anniversary Gala Host Committee: Aric & Jessica Walton, Chris & Sarah Cameron, Marcia & Alton Hartt, Mitchell & Katelynn Davis, Betsy & Brad Morrison, Peter & Anne-Marie Brown, Mary Jewers, John & Julianne Opperman, Charlie Mercer, Dave & Paula Thompson, Jim & Amy Saffian, Karen & Terry Johnson, Cri Swift & Raf Adams

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

A Busy Month at Bayside



STRIVE Bayside has had a very busy and exciting month! Participants at STRIVE Bayside started volunteering this month. Everyone at Bayside now volunteers at the Preble Street food pantry once a week. Our duties include organizing incoming donations and organizing the pantry. There are always lots of boxes of food to be organized, we are definitely busy during our time volunteering! This is a very exciting opportunity as everyone can add this volunteering job to their resumes.

Adding volunteering to our resumes isn't the only thing that Bayside has been doing to further our job preparedness... We also started a Professional Development class! We currently have 6 of our participants working with Kim once a week in a class focused on professional development. So far in the class participants have explored what kind of job and work they would want to do.

STRIVE Bayside is a program for those hoping to learn independent living skills such as cooking, cleaning, navigating the community, budgeting and more. Though our group is growing, we still have space for more! We have one slot available in both the morning (9am to 1pm) and afternoon (1pm to 5pm) groups. For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Veerle Pottie at vpottie@pslservices.org or (207)774-6278.

Thankful for Next STEP

This month, Next STEP has been working on self-advocacy. The month started with learning about voting and the issues and candidates that were a part of the most recent election. Later in the month, Red Cross came in to discuss winter weather preparedness and emergency plans.

The Disability Rights Center gave a presentation on what the participants should advocate for in terms of services, and what sort of support the Disability Rights Center can offer. HealthSource of Portland North also joined Next STEP for a lunch-hour to discuss stress-reduction.



While volunteering at Garbage to Garden, Next STEP was able to start a composting program at STRIVE. Now there are composting buckets in each of our two kitchens. The Next STEP participants put together a presentation to explain to everyone else in the building how to compost and what to include or keep out of the buckets. Each week, Next STEP makes sure the buckets are exchanged for clean ones. Through it all, Next STEP has been having a great time getting outside, even as the temperature drops and we gear up for the holidays.

Next STEP is a great option offering quality curriculum for those that are on a waiting list for other services, in combination with other services, or for those who may not qualify for other services. Please contact Katie Collins at 207-774-6278 or kcollins@pslservices.org if you would like more information regarding Next STEP or would like to schedule a tour. Part-time and full-time options are available.

STRIVE U Update



Things at STRIVE U continue to remain busy as we move into winter. Students are becoming more and more comfortable with their employment opportunities and adjusting to the new schedules that come with any change. With the recent election, many of our students took the opportunity to go to various political events around the city; some even got the opportunity to attend an event featuring the President of the United States!

STRIVE U students have managed to squeeze in some fun along with all the hard work. They held a progressive Thanksgiving dinner on November 24th. Students and staff did all the cooking. The group then made their way around campus enjoying appetizers, dinner, and dessert in the different apartments. It's a big tradition at STRIVE U and one students, alumni and staff look forward to every year. As we get into the holiday season, many of our students are spending time exploring what Portland has to offer for festivities and are planning fun and exciting social activities with peers. The students are showing such amazing dedication and tremendous effort in their goals and activities!

STRIVE U applications for the Class of 2017 are available now! To learn more about the program, schedule a tour, or get an application, please contact Erin Berg at eberg@pslservices.org or call 207.774.6278.

Questions, Comments, or Concerns – Contact Our Staff!

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We welcome your comments, questions, and feedback at info@pslstrive.org.



December Theme Night:
Holiday Party

Join STRIVE from 6-9pm on Friday, December 19th as we celebrate the winter holidays!

We will have festive activities, games, and prizes!

FMI: Contact Katelynn at kdavis@pslservices.org

It's time for Camp STRIVE!



Mon., December 29th
Tues., December 30th
Wed., December 31st
Fri., January 2nd

Camp runs 9:00am to 5:00pm with the option of an early drop-off at 8am.

We'll have festive activities to celebrate the holidays!

Cost: \$45/day

To learn more or to sign up, please contact Katelynn Davis at kdavis@pslservices.org or call 207.774.6278.



December Birthdays



Michael Godin
Jimmy Makowiecki
Brittany Gooch
Raymond Rolls
Joshua Curran
Chandler Hawkes
Erica Lawton
Michael Gregoire
Lissette Rodriguez
Julia Hildreth
Joey Spiller
Carmen LaPointe
John Mancini
Kate McHale
Kimberly Rosenbloom
Alex York
Jun Yang Lin
Jeremy Martin
Megen McCormack

Robert Mendillo
Ashley Bowers
Brian Hopkins
Megan Squiess
Adorra Small
Julie Williams
Vitaliy Chan
Simon Harrison
Anthony Koutsivitis



Wednesday Night Educational Classes

Money Management

November 26th
December 17th
Wednesdays, 6-8pm



This series will give students the opportunity to learn about money, checking and savings accounts, and balancing checkbooks.

For more information, contact Elizabeth McKernan at emckernan@pslservices.org or call 207-774-6278.

TWEENS Schedule of Events

Are you between the ages of 11 and 14? Are you looking to make new friends?
Join us every Friday afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30pm at STRIVE!

For the entire month of December, Tweens is FREE!!!

December 5th: Portland Youth Dance
December 12th: UNUM
December 19th: Snow Ball!
December 26th: NO TWEENS—Happy Holidays!

For more information, contact Elizabeth McKernan at emckernan@pslservices.org or call (207)774-6278.

Thank you to our November Donors!

UNUM Group	Merritt Island, Inc.
Eric & Bethann Swan	Pamela Houk
Michael Makowiecki	Maine Marathon
InCapital	Charlie Mercer
United Technologies	Madden Beverage
WEX, Inc.	Jeffrey Bryan
UPS Foundation	

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Aktion Club
 December 3rd, 3:15pm
 December 17th, 3:15pm

Member Advisory Board Meeting
 December 5th, 19th
 5:30pm

Wednesday Night Education Classes
 December 3rd, 10th, and 17th
 6:00—8:00pm

Thursday, December 25th & Friday, December 26th—
Winter Celebration—STRIVE Closed

Thursday, January 1st—
New Year's Day—STRIVE Closed

Tweens:
 Every Friday, 3:30-5:30pm
 11-14 year olds

STRIVE Night:
 Every Friday, 6:00-9:00pm
 15-24 year olds

Three Points for STRIVE!



The Maine Red Claws have begun their 2014—2015 season!

The Maine Red Claws and Hammond Lumber Company have teamed up with us again for 3 Points for STRIVE!



Make a pledge for each three-pointer made this season at the Red Claws home games.

To learn more or make your pledge, contact Katelynn Davis at kdavis@pslservices.org or call 207.774.6278.

Thank You to all who helped make our auction a success!



Our 10th Annual Auction, held on November 5th, was our most successful auction yet! This year's auction featured items, decorations and food from throughout the great state of Maine, including a unique "Cheese Cave" experience.

Thank you to all those who planned, attended, donated to, and sponsored our 2014 Live & Silent Auction: "Celebrating Maine—From Coast to County."

We had over 500 items, 350 guests and raised **over \$63,000** for our numerous programs here at STRIVE! We are truly thankful for all of your gracious support!

A special thank you to those who made this event possible:



Auction Committee Members

- Elizabeth Shevenell
- Valerie Clark
- Donna Roggenthien
- Ronnie Allan
- Elaine Gervais
- Evelyn Emmons
- Joanna Bulger
- Sara Brown
- Scott Taylor
- Tom Dipasqua
- Jason Briggs

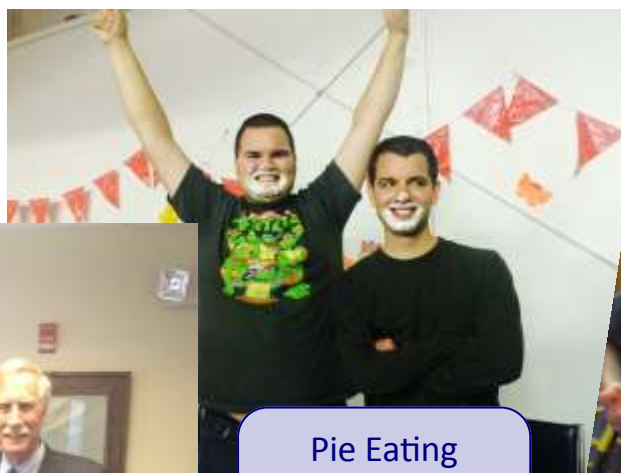


Donald L. Theriault, D.M.D.
Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology



Solstice Investments LLC
Colorful Spaces to Live + Play

STRIVE Pictures



STRIVE U Student, Cory,
with Senator Angus King



Pie Eating
Contest Winners
at STRIVE Night!



Preparing pies for
PSL's Thanksgiving lunch

STRIVE Staff at the STRIVE Night Halloween Party!



STRIVE U
Halloween
Party



If you have photos that you would like to contribute and see in the STRIVE monthly newsletter or on the STRIVE Facebook page, please email them to us at info@pslstrive.org!



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

www.facebook.com/strivenation

Twitter: @pslstrive

Instagram: [strive_psl](https://www.instagram.com/strive_psl)

Pinterest: STRIVEPSL

Find us online!: www.pslstrive.org

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Give the Gift of STRIVE!



STRIVE gift certificates are the perfect holiday gift for the STRIVE member who attends our STRIVE Night Socials or Tweens! Certificates come in multiples of \$10

T-shirts and sweatshirts are available, too!

Contact Katelynn Davis to learn more
kdavis@pslservices.org or 774.6278