



www.pslstrive.org

STRIVE Newsletter

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2010

Mission Statement

To assist 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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Gala Wrap-Up	2
Donor List	2
Sea Dog Fan Store Promo	3
Aktion Club Update	4
Upcoming Classes	5
Member Spotlight	5
Firstgiving	6
January Events	6
Pictures	7

Seasons Greeting From STRIVE!!



There is no time more fitting to thank you for your support during the past year and to wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

STRIVE presents its newest program.... TWEENS!

STRIVE is pleased to announce its newest program: Tweens! The Tweens Program will run every Friday afternoon from 3:00-5:00pm and provide 11-14 year olds with developmental disabilities structured activities and a safe place to make new friends.

The Tweens Program will kick off Friday, January 8th at the STRIVE center with food, games, prizes, and a rockin' DJ! All students must be accompanied by a support person. Admission is \$10. Scholarships are available.

For more information, please contact Kristina Smalley at (207)774-6278 or ksmalley@pslservices.org.

STRIVE NEWS

STRIVE 10th Anniversary Gala A Great Success

Over 375 STRIVE members, former members, volunteers and parents filled the Italian Heritage Center on December 5th to commemorate and celebrate STRIVE's 10th Anniversary. Ten years ago that week, STRIVE held its first Friday night social event- attended by 4 people. Ten years later, STRIVE serves over 600+ teens and young adults many of whom were in attendance at the Gala with their families.

The evening, modeled after STRIVE's Friday Night Social, featured presentations, dancing, looking at great exhibits of STRIVE's past, and lots of catching up with friends. The program consisted of remarks from Chadd Taplin (representing the first ever STRIVE members), Program Director Pete Brown, Senators Snowe and Collins, and many more, including member advisory board officers Caroline Frawley and Eric Hughes. STRIVE was presented with a legislative sentiment from the Maine House of Representatives as well as a proclamation from Governor King.

Highlights of the night included two awards being presented. Chris Martin received STRIVE's "Volunteer of the Decade Award" and TD Bank received STRIVE's "Business and Community Partner of the Decade Award. Chris accepted his award and gave remarks, and accepting on behalf of the bank was Liz Warn the President of the TD Bank Charitable Foundation. Congrats to Chris and TD Bank, and thanks for your support!

This was a great event, which highlighted STRIVE's history and showed the excitement around the future. More photos from the event can be seen by visiting our website at www.pslstrive.org. We would like to thank the planning committee for this event: Aric Walton, Chris Cameron, Charlie Mercer, and Karen Johnson. We were fortunate to also have over 50 families serve on our host committee- thanks for your support of STRIVE! We look forward to serving you for the next 10 years!

"...Now, Therefore, I, John E. Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim December 5, 2009 as **STRIVE Day throughout the State of Maine**, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance." –From Governor's Proclamation.

Please see selected quotes from many of the speakers at the Gala throughout the newsletter!

"This is a celebration not just of years- but of commitment and accomplishments." -Senator Susan Collins (to see Senator Collins Remarks in full, please visit www.pslstrive.org)

Thank you to those who generously donated to STRIVE in December.

Robert L. Junkins, Larry and Cindy Vaughan, Alex Agnew, Joseph and Cheryl Boulos, Catherine Iannacone, Nappi Distributors, Elizabeth and Robert MacPherson, Stephen and Paula Kloth, Francis Egan, Anthony Barasso, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Haynes, Richard and Katherine Gauthier, William V. Gourde, Carlos and Julie Montgomery, Allan McHale, Edward and Elizabeth Shevenell, Mary Ellen Frawley, Jane Eberle, Elizabeth Potter, David and Elaine Lewis, Lou and Mary Jean Fave, Anonymous, Henry and Monica Recknagel, Richard C. Randall, & Steve and Gayl Sinclair

We appreciate your continued support!

Thank You to the following host committee members:

Tim & Aileen Agnew, Anthony Barasso, Gina Barnes, Dan & Sara Boxer, Peter & Anne-Marie Brown, Phil & Barbara Brown, Sara Brown, Kevin & Amanda Buckley, Chris Cameron, Matt & Cathy Campbell, Jim & Jenny Clair, James & Peggy Cloutier, Pierre & Deborah Corbeau, David & Linda Corey, Gregory & Lorraine Cyr, Eliot & Taffy Field, Stephen Frawley, Richard & Karen Gauthier, David & Emily Ghiorse, Peter & Rosemary Goranites, Lewanne Hughes, Peter & Karen Jannace, Florence Johnson, Terry & Karen Johnson, Scott & Meredith Kerr, David & Patti Kristiansen, Linda Lamberson & Marc Voyvovich, Robert & Mary Anne MacMath, Elizabeth & Lynn Markee, Allan McHale, Charlie Mercer, David & Sharon Michaud, Donna Roggenthien & Ron Leeking, Dick & Gerri Prentice, Catherine Sanders, Kristina Smalley, Steven & Sharon Smalley, Kathy Son, Mike and Lynn Spadinger, Donald L. Theriault D.M.D, Dave, Paula & Noel Thompson, Marjorie Twombly, Larry & Cynthia Vaughan, John R. Veilleux, Aric & Jessica Walton, Richard & Bridget Whiting, William & Jennifer Willard, Bob & Pat Wilson, Jeff Young & Betsy Mahoney, Monaghan Woodworks, Inc. Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution

STRIVE NEWS

“STRIVE is a great program. I feel honored you’ve included me tonight”. –Bill Green



KICK OFF PARTY
 GET READY FOR THE 2010 DANCE MARATHON!!!
JANUARY 8TH 2010 3:00 - 9:00 PM
STRIVE CENTER 28 FODEN ROAD SOUTH PORTLAND

PICK UP YOUR REGISTRATION PACKETS! LIVE MUSIC BY THE PECAN SANDIES, FREE FOOD, TONS OF PRIZES!

WWW.PSLSTRIVE.ORG or 774.6278

DANCE MARATHON 2010 REGISTRATION PACKETS AVAILABLE: January 8th!

Start fundraising now for the March 6th & 7th Dance Marathon. Packets can be picked up at STRIVE any time after January 8th or download from our website: www.pslstrive.org. This year looks to be another super fun event! Join us for local bands, free food, prizes and a night filled with dancing! Current sponsors include: Hannaford, Cabot Cheese, WJBQ 97.9, Anthem, Portland Kiwanis, Sam's Club and Music & Moore! For more information on the dance marathon and how you can become involved please contact Kristina Smalley at ksmalley@pslservices.org.


Don't forget to join us at the Dance Marathon KICK OFF Party on January 8th with musical guest the Pecan Sandies!

BookWorks! Book Sale on January 9th

BookWorks! will be having a book sale on Saturday January 9th from 10:00am-2:00pm.

All books will be 10% off

Fill-A-Bag for only \$8.00 (20% off regular deal!)



For more information, contact Kim Kelley at (207)774-6278 or kkelley@pslservices.org

Sea Dogs Souvenir Store to Aid STRIVE

The Portland Sea Dogs have partnered with five local non-profit organizations to aid the organizations in their fundraising efforts. The Sea Dogs team store fundraising program will donate **10%** of weekly sales back to local non-profit organizations.

STRIVE supporters are encouraged to shop at the Sea Dogs Souvenir Shop **February 2nd-5th**. This program is a great way for fans to support STRIVE and get some great Sea Dogs merchandise.

The Sea Dogs Souvenir Store, located at Hadlock Field, is open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM during the team store fundraising campaign. Only in store sales are eligible for the program, online sales are not included in the fundraising campaign.

STRIVE WISH LIST

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| General Office Supplies | Volunteers to work shifts at Bookworks! |
| Craft Supplies | Children's rug |
| xBox 360 and/or Wii video games | Paper Cutter |
| Sports Equipment | Storage Shed |
| Frozen Pizzas | <i>Henna or Caricature artist for Dance Marathon</i> |

Applications for the STRIVE U Class of 2012 are still available!

The application deadline is February 1, 2010.

If you have any questions or would like an application, please contact Erin Berg at (207)774-6278 or eberg@pslservices.org

Volunteer News

New Year Around the World

By: Kevin Mooney



China

The date of the Chinese New Year is determined by the new moon falling between January 21 and February 19. Each year is named for a symbolic animal in sequential order: rat, ox, tiger, hare, dragon, serpent, horse, ram, monkey, rooster, dog, and boar. New toys and clothes are given and feasts are held. The spiritual aspects concern ancestor worship, and portraits of ancestors are displayed on New Year's Eve.

Europe and the United States

Medieval Europeans who followed the Julian calendar observed New Year's Day on March 25; the date was gradually changed to January 1 after the 1582 introduction of the Gregorian calendar. A chorus of the traditional Scottish song "Auld Lang Syne" is often sung at midnight on New Year's Eve. It is also a time to make New Year's resolutions like improving one's behavior or banishing bad habits.



Make it a New Year's resolution to come to Bookworks!

Kevin Mooney is a STRIVE member who volunteers at BookWorks! every Thursday.

Aktion Club Update

Over the past month Aktion Club has shown their holiday spirit! Vice President, J.J. Sarapas volunteered at the Kiwanis Annual Holiday Luncheon for the elderly! J.J. greeted guests as they arrived at the Holiday Inn by the Bay!

Also, Aktion Club is happy to announce that they supported two families for the holidays! Aktion Club fund-raised over \$200 this year to purchase Christmas gifts for two different families! From all of us involved in Aktion Club, "Happy New Year!"



To get involved in Aktion Club, contact Kristina at (207)774-6278 or ksmalley@pslservices.org.

Follow us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/STRIVE/129076679535?ref=sgm>
for updates and the latest news.

We also have a cause page.

<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/333940>



Join Facebook & pass the word onto other friends of STRIVE!

A very special **THANK YOU** to Sly Chi for donating their time and talent to STRIVE by performing at the Gala!



SLY CHI will be releasing a new CD called "Seven In The Shadows." You can pick up the CD at all Bull Moose Music locations, on iTunes, or on the band's website.

Check out <http://www.myspace.com/slychi> for more info.

Do you have a love of books and a free hour or two to donate to STRIVE each week??

BookWorks! is still looking for dedicated volunteers to help out with shifts!
Shifts can be one time or on going.

Shifts available include:

Mondays: 2:00– 5:00

Tuesdays: 4:00-6:00

Thursdays: 5:00-6:00

Fridays: 5:00-6:00

If you would like to help, please contact
Kim Kelley at (207)774-6278 or
kkelley@pslservices.org

Members' Page

Don't miss out on upcoming classes!

Nutrition

You are what you eat! Join us for our upcoming Personal Wellness Series—Nutrition! Learn about what goes into the foods you love and hear from local experts about how to make sure the foods you're eating are delicious AND nutritious. This class will be interactive, informative, and most of all, fun! Classes will run on Monday nights 5:30-7:00pm from January 4th-March 5th.



Computer Skills

In a tech-savvy world, computer skills are important to every student! If you'd like to brush up on your computer knowledge, then join us for our upcoming Wednesday Night Educational Series—Computer Skills! This class will cover the basics of using Windows, Microsoft Office (Word, Power Point, & Excel), as well as how to safely use the internet. Throughout the class we will also work on typing skills. Classes will run on Wednesday nights 6:00-8:00pm from January 6th-February 17th.

If you have any questions or would like to register for a Monday or Wednesday night class, please contact Kim Miller at kmiller@pslservices.org or (207)774-6278

Visit <http://firstgiving.org/strive> to set up your online fundraising page for the Dance Marathon!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:



MICHAEL GREGORIE

Favorite STRIVE moment: Seeing Slugger

Favorite Food: Spaghetti

If there were one actor who would star in your life story, who would it be? Eddie Murphy

Do you have any siblings? One brother, Christopher

Favorite Color: Red

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? San Francisco

Favorite Band: Rolling Stones

Favorite Song: "Rock Star" by Nickelback

Favorite Movie: Are We There Yet

If you could have one holiday everyday, what would it be? Christmas

Suggestions for STRIVE: Play Station 2!

"This program works. It's touching the hearts and minds of so many young people- creating a foundation they can build on for the rest of their lives." -Senator Olympia Snowe. (you can also see Senator Snowe's remarks in full on our website, www.pslstrive.org)

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Daniel Lowe	January 1	Anthony Herrick	January 15	Jamie Flynn	January 19
Bruce Andrews	January 5	Brooke Post	January 16	Mallory Wade	January 22
Tim Larsen	January 7	Trevor Ashbaugh	January 17	Samantha Mitchell	January 24
Garrett Huber	January 10	Kristi Dionne	January 18	Sean Wilcox	January 25
Tom Schrank	January 10	Ryan Holden	January 18	Bret Taylor	January 26
Meghan Robinson	January 13	Bryan Knight	January 18	Kristina Smith	January 29
Virginia Herring	January 13	Chris Flagg	January 18	Desarae Colello	January 30
Noah Warner	January 14	Jonathan Brink	January 18	Kimberly Creamer	January 30
Christopher Dickerman	January 14	Jason Laughlin	January 26	Patrick Diehl	January 30

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM STRIVE!!!

Members' Page

"I have been going to STRIVE for the last 5 years and it gets better every year. I love going to STRIVE Nights! I go almost every Friday. Its great to spend time with my friends and relax in a safe and fun place. I feel like I am listened to and respected at STRIVE."
-Eric Hughes, Member Advisory Board Vice President

"I have had so many experiences with the Advisory Board, STRIVE Night and STRIVE! I think all of this has really helped me be able to talk with people easily. I feel so comfortable and confident here and I want to be involved with STRIVE for many more years. STRIVE really feels like a home to me."
-Caroline Frawley, Advisory Board President

STRIVE members: Interested in going to the Maine Red Claws basketball game on Sunday, January 31st???

For free tickets, please contact Pete or Kristina at (207)774-6278 or stop by STRIVE.



JANUARY EVENTS:

New Year's Day: STRIVE CLOSED
Friday, January 1st

Nutrition Class
Monday nights from 5:30-7:00pm
(1/4, 1/11, 1/25)

Computer Skills Class
Wednesday nights from 6:00-8:00pm
(1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27)

Dance Marathon Kick-Off Party
Friday, January 8th from 3:00pm-9:00pm

Tweens Kick-Off Party
Friday, January 8th from 3:00-5:00pm

BookWorks! Book Sale
Saturday, Jan. 9th from 10:00am-2:00pm

Aktion Club Meeting
Every other Wednesday from 3:30-4:00pm
(1/13, 1/27)

Dance Marathon Planning Committee
Every other Wednesday from 5:00-6:00pm
(1/13, 1/27)

Member Advisory Board Meeting
Every other Friday from 5:00-5:30pm
(1/15, 1/29)

Martin Luther King Jr. Day:
STRIVE CLOSED (Monday, January 18th)

Red Claws Game with STRIVE
Sunday, January 31st at 5:00pm

Winter World Scramble:

Unscramble the letters to find winter words

1. atoflobl _____
2. eignldds _____
3. aflnowske _____
4. osrft _____
5. sneitmt _____
6. kingis _____
7. arcfs _____
8. unrayja _____
9. otosb _____
10. cei _____
11. owlablsn _____
12. zierfng _____
13. inretw _____
14. oth ccao _____
15. sloevg _____

"You should all take great pride in the accomplishments STRIVE has achieved. You have made a real difference in a lot of lives."
-Governor John E. Baldacci

STRIVE PICTURES



STRIVE U Alumni: Lauren Vangellow, Justin Kristiansen, Danielle Gaudette, and Nick Vaughn pose for a picture at the Gala.



Emma Campbell works on a ginger bread house with Kim Miller.



DJ Charette, Emma Campbell, Andrew McIver, Chandler Hawkes, and Steph Sinclair show off the vinyl record bowls they made during After School.



Eric Hughes challenged Slugger to an arm wrestling contest during New England Sports Theme night



The Journalism Class students pose with local news anchor Shannon Moss



The STRIVE T-Shirt Quilt, created by Janet Kelley, was one of the fabulous items raffled off during the Tea Cup Raffle at the 10th Anniversary Gala

*Do you have pictures that you would like to share with us?
If so please send them to info@pslstrive.org*



STRIVE
28 Foden Road
South Portland, ME 04106

Phone: 207-774-6278

Fax: 207-774-7695

Email: info@pslstrive.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PORTLAND, ME
PERMIT NO. 144

Address Service Requested

*Serving teens and young
adults with developmental
disabilities*

**Visit our website:
www.pslstrive.org**

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

Has your address or phone
number changed?

*Email us at
info@pslstrive.org*

STRIVE U Staff

Mara Sullivan:

STRIVE U Transitions Coordinator
msullivan@pslservices.org

Erin Berg:

STRIVE U Admissions Coordinator
eberg@pslservices.org

Heather Free:

Student Life Coordinator
hfree@pslservices.org

Liz Clark

Education & Training Coordinator
eclark@pslservices.org

Sam Heck:

Fundraising/Community Relations Director
sheck@pslservices.org

STRIVE Staff

Michael Faust:

PSL Services Executive Director
mfaust@pslservices.org

Peter Brown:

STRIVE & STRIVE U Program Director
pbrown@pslservices.org

Kristina Smalley:

STRIVE Volunteer & Programs Coordinator
ksmalley@pslservices.org

Kim Miller:

Special Projects Coordinator
kmiller@pslservices.org

Kim Kelley:

After School Coordinator
kkelley@pslservices.org