



www.pslstrive.org

STRIVE Newsletter

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 6

JUNE 2013

Significant State Budget Cuts Impact Programs

Dear STRIVE Community Members,

I'm writing to let you know that we have recently been contacted by the Office of Department of Health and Human Services, who let us know that STRIVE's state funding will be entirely eliminated as of July 1, 2013. This is a significant loss of over \$70,000 annually for our programs. As a result, we are forced to make some very difficult decisions regarding our programs. We are writing to let you know that as of July 1, the following will take effect:

- Elimination of the STRIVE Program Coordinator Position (1 FTE)
- Reduction from two classes per week to one. The Monday Night Wellness series will end as of June 10th
- Friday Night sliding scale/scholarships will be eliminated for STRIVE Night
- The sliding scale/scholarships will be eliminated for Friday Tweens Program
- Summer Camp staff will be reduced from 3 seasonal staff to 2.5
- An increase emphasis will be added to all of our fundraising events, including our Annual Auction, 5K Run/Walk, and our Dance Marathon

This letter was sent to our email list on May 8th. If you would like to be added to our email list, please visit PSLSTRIVE.org. We genuinely appreciate your involvement with STRIVE. Your support ensures our ability to provide a quality program for over 850 tweens, teens and young adults annually.

Sincerely,
Peter Brown
STRIVE Program Director

News from STRIVE Bayside

STRIVE Bayside is currently accepting applications for our afternoon session (1:00-5:00pm) starting on September 9th, 2013! Space is limited to eight participants for this afternoon session and will be two years in duration. Funding options include Section 21, 29 or private pay. Please contact Betsy Morrison at bmorrison@pslservices.org or 207-774-6278 for more information or an application! It's been an exciting spring here at STRIVE Bayside - we celebrated Earth Day with litter clean up at the park and a picnic; we have really focused in on healthy eating, portion sizes and cooking more complicated meals here at program; and we had an Open House on May 14th which Bayside participants hand wrote and mailed invitations to families and friends! STRIVE Bayside offers a unique community support program in Portland which is dedicated to expanding independent living skills and community connections for people with developmental disabilities. The goal of STRIVE Bayside is to work with participants over a two year period to expand their abilities to live a more independent life. Participants work on skills like budgeting, banking, menu planning, grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning, laundry and learning to navigate the community around us!



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 U News

Spring is in full bloom at STRIVE U. and lots of exciting changes are happening on the Nye Street campus. The Class of 2013 is saving up their money for their trip to Boston happening on June 8th. They will be visiting the Boston Science Museum, The New England Aquarium, and Hard Rock Cafe all while riding in style in a stretch limo. The Class of 2013 is also beginning to pack and move into their new apartments in the West End. The Class of 2014 has received their summer reading assignment and they are about to dive into *The Hunger Games* by Susan Collins for their USM Reader's Workshop. They have also received their roommate assignments for the upcoming year.

A second year student has been participating in the training of her replacement (a first year student) at Woodard & Curran. She is leaving this fine engineering firm for a temporary position at the highly regarded advertising agency, VIA. Coworkers at Woodard & Curran report the training has been very successful for both students! A valued employment partner since 2004, MEMIC recently announced the permanent hire of a 2011 STRIVE U graduate.

A first year STRIVE U student is also employed at MEMIC. Know Technology expressed their complete satisfaction with a student's performance by offering to extend their temporary placement by another 6 months. A Two STRIVE U graduates have already been employed by Walgreens prior to the REDI program's introduction to Maine residents.

If you or someone you know would like to benefit from the many rewards of working with STRIVE U – hire a productive & professional employee, increase your customer base, enhance your community profile, share the spotlight with one of Maine's most well-known and respected organizations to serve people with developmental disabilities, call or email us today!

To find out how to become a STRIVE U Employment Partner, please contact MaryAnn Schwanda, Employment Coordinator: mschwanda@pslservices.org or call 207-774-6278.

Next Step Update

Next STEP has had a very busy spring! Now that the weather has gotten better and in keeping with our ongoing discussions regarding personal health, participants have been walking almost daily. We walk to the grocery store where we purchase items for our weekly lunch preparations. We walk to the Maine Mall where we explore some of our favorite stores and discuss needs vs. wants. We also walk just for the sake of walking and to get some fresh air and exercise! Additionally, we have begun our biweekly sessions at the M.O.G. (Medically Oriented Gym) where we participate in a customized fitness program that combines exercise, nutrition and wellness.

Next STEP participants have also started a garden by planting carrot and pea seeds in inside containers which will be transplanted in the next week to an outside garden plot that we will maintain all season. We recently had a tour of O'Donal's Nursery where we learned the best techniques for preparing and maintaining our garden.


Next STEP continues to participate in weekly volunteer activities in an effort to give back to the community. Those that attend on Thursdays volunteer at the Root Cellar while the Friday participants volunteer at the Animal Refuge League.

Please plan to join us on June 18 anytime between 3:00-7:00 p.m. at 28 Foden Road for our Open House! This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Next STEP program and all that it has to offer. Next STEP is a very unique private-pay program that offers educational, recreational, social and independent living skill development for it's participants. We offer full and part time participation as well as early drop-off and late pick-up in an effort to meet the needs of those who attend and their families. Next STEP is a great option to consider while on a waiting list for services, in combination with a community support program or for those who do not qualify for other services. For more information, please contact Betsy Morrison, Program Manager, at 774-6278 or bmorrison@pslservices.org



Get Involved!

Want to be a STRIVE Fund-Racer? Race Opportunities!

 <p>STRIVE is excited to have been chosen as a co-beneficiary for the she Jams Dynamic Dirt Challenge on June 2nd at Pineland Farms. FMI: dynamicdirtchallenge.com Contact STRIVE at (207) 774.6278 for a \$5 coupon code!</p>	 <p>If you would like to run in this year's Beach to Beacon for STRIVE please contact our office as soon as possible at (207) 774-6278! STRIVE has a limited amount of spaces for the August 3rd race in exchange for fundraising a minimum of \$300 for the STRIVE programs.</p>	 <p>STRIVE for 5* Foden Road 5K Mark your calendars now! The 2nd Annual STRIVE for 5* Foden Road 5K & Neighborhood Block Party is scheduled for September 14th Registration is now open! To register today, please visit PSLSTRIVE.org.</p>	 <p>STRIVE is excited to have been chosen as the two year beneficiary for the Maine Marathon being held on October 6th! If you would like to run in this year's race please visit: mainemarathon.com</p>
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Thank You to Our May Supporters!

<p>Alice Husted Truist, Inc. Leon & Lisa Gorman, <i>In Memory of Lynn Markee</i> Elizabeth & Scott Milliagn, <i>In Memory of Lynn Markee</i> Robert Booth, <i>In Memory of Lynn Markee</i> Ameriprise Financial Annual Giving Campaign Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution Janet & Michael Collins</p>	<p>Lee Brandwein Catherine Campbell Lee Meyers Dick & Barb Wigton Larry & Cynthia Vaughan Ray & Ruth Hefflefinger Dominic Dibiase Johnson & Company</p>
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Questions, Comments, or Concerns – Contact Our Staff!

<p>Michael Faust PSL Services Executive Director mfaust@pslservices.org</p> <p>Peter Brown STRIVE & STRIVE U Program Director pbrown@pslservices.org</p> <p>Kristina Smalley STRIVE Program Manager ksmalley@pslservices.org</p> <p>Brianna McCabe STRIVE Bayside Coordinator bmccabe@pslservices.org</p> <p>Erin Saul STRIVE Program Coordinator esaul@pslservices.org</p> <p>Shannon Olejar STRIVE Special Projects Coordinator solejar@pslservices.org</p> <p>Betsy Morrison STRIVE U and Next STEP Program Manager bmorrison@pslservices.org</p>	<p>Bill Hughes STRIVE/STRIVE U Programs bhughes@pslservices.org</p> <p>Sarah Thurston STRIVE U Transition Coordinator sthurston@pslservices.org</p> <p>Erin Berg STRIVE U Admissions Coordinator eberg@pslservices.org</p> <p>Katie Collins STRIVE U Student Life Coordinator kcollins@pslservices.org</p> <p>Liz Guillerault STRIVE U Education & Training Coordinator eclark@pslservices.org</p> <p>MaryAnn Schwanda STRIVE U Employment Coordinator mschwanda@pslservices.org</p> <p>We welcome your comments, questions, and feedback at info@pslstrive.org.</p>
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**STRIVE Night's
Hawaiian Luau Party!**
June 28th 6-9pm
 Cost is \$10 for STRIVE members!



Summer is almost here and STRIVE is celebrating by hosting a Hawaiian Theme Night! Get ready to hula the night away and enjoy some tropical themed treats. Don't forget to wear your flower leis and grass skirts!

Member Spotlight: Haley Pass



How old are you: 20
 Favorite movie: Twilight
 Favorite color: Pink
 Favorite holiday: Easter
 Coolest activity at STRIVE this year:
 The Dance Marathon
 Dream job: Web Designer

June Birthdays 

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>William Irons
 Brandon Temple
 Stephanie Elsmann
 Samantha Gauthier
 Erica Boivin
 Matthew Piper
 Dylan Markee
 Joanna Wyand
 Michael McDonald
 Caleb Dunlap
 Ashley Lowe
 Anna Bulger</p> | <p>Carolyn Lewis
 Nick Mercier
 Kyle Herrle
 Eric Johnson
 Tabitha Booth
 Sabrina Holmes
 Diana Lasyanov
 Emily Bell
 Charlie Saffian
 Benjamin Woodson
 Amanda Barash
 Kaylee Blake</p> |
|---|--|

Camp STRIVE: June 19th-August 30th

Spend your Summer Break with STRIVE! Camp STRIVE runs from 9am-5pm Monday through Friday from June 19th-August 30th! Arts, crafts, fieldtrips, games, and more! Cost is \$45 per day or \$200 for every five days of camp. FMI visit PSLStrive.org/camp or email Erin at esaul@pslservices.org.



TWEENS Schedule of Events

Are you between the ages of 11 and 14? Are you looking to make new friends?
Then join us every Friday afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30pm at the STRIVE Center!
Cost is \$10 with sliding scale available. See you on Friday!

June 7th— Summer Jeopardy!
June 14th— UNUM Activities
June 21st—Movie Night
June 28th— Hawaiian Luau Theme Night!

Feel free to call Shannon at STRIVE at 774-6278 or
email at solejar@pslservices.org with any questions
about our Tweens Program!

Monday Night Personal Wellness Classes

Unfortunately due to State of Maine Budget Cuts, after June 10th STRIVE will no longer be offering the Monday Night Wellness Series. To ensure that our STRIVE members are getting wellness opportunities we will be including some of the Monday Night topics into the 2014 Wednesday Night Class Series. Thank you for your understanding during this time of transition. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Kristina at ksmalley@pslservices.org or (207) 774-6278.

Wednesday Night Educational Class Series



Internet Safety

6:00-8:00 pm
June 5th - June 26th

Learn about how to stay safe on the internet from the experts. Class will cover the basics of computer safety as well as how to navigate the world of social networking online. Sign up today! This series costs \$20. For more information, contact Shannon at (207) 774-6278 or solejar@pslservices.org.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Kiwanis Aktion Club

June 12th & 26th
3:30pm

Member Advisory Board Meeting

June 14th & 28th
5:00pm

sheJAMS Dynamic Dirt Challenge

June 2nd at Pineland Farms
9:00am

Next STEP Open House

June 18th
3:00pm-7:00pm

Camp STRIVE Summer Sessions Begin!

June 19th
9am-5pm

Auction Planning Committee Meeting

June 19th
5:30pm at the STRIVE Center

STRIVE U Graduation

June 22nd
10am at USM's Hannaford Hall

STRIVE CLOSED

July 4th

High-Fives for STRIVE World Record Attempt

July 5th
7pm at Hadlock Field

STRIVE Annual Auction: Committee Members Needed!

STRIVE is looking for dedicated individuals to join our auction committee for STRIVE's 9th Annual Live and Silent Auction. The first committee meeting will be held at the STRIVE Center at 5:30pm on Wednesday, June 19th. This group helps plan and prepare for the October 16th auction event. If you or someone you know may be interested in joining the auction committee this year, please contact Kristina at ksmalley@pslservices.org or (207)-774-6278.

High Fives for STRIVE!

Join us July 5th at
Hadlock Field for a
World Record
Attempt at the most
simultaneous
High Fives!

In partnership with
the
Portland Sea Dogs



Please join STRIVE on July 5th at Hadlock Field in Portland as we attempt to set a new Guinness Book of World Records by having The Most Simultaneous High Fives! This attempt is in partnership with the Portland SeaDogs and we hope that you will be able to join us! Tickets can be purchased online at PSLSTRIVE.org or at STRIVE for \$8 a piece! STRIVE will receive a \$3 donation from every ticket sale for this game.

This is sure to be a fun and unique opportunity for everyone to participate in. If you would like more information on “High Fives for STRIVE” please visit the STRIVE webpage at www.pslstrive.org

Since we would like as many people as possible to be in attendance and break a World Record, STRIVE will not be hosting the Tweens or STRIVE Night Program on July 5th.

We encourage all members and STRIVE supporters to join us at Hadlock Field! Questions? Email or call Pete Brown at pbrown@pslservices.com or (207) 774-6278.

STRIVE Pictures



Above: STRIVE Bayside participants enjoying a picnic after picking up trash at Deering oaks Park for Earth Day!



Above: Camp STRIVE enjoying Old Orchard Beach.



Above: Camp STRIVE visits the UNE Marine Science Center during April Vacation.



Left: The STRIVE U. Class of 2013 taking a class picture at the Nye Street Campus. Graduation will be taking place on June 22nd at USM's Hannaford Hall.



STRIVE
28 Foden Road
South Portland, ME 04106

Phone: 207-774-6278

Fax: 207-774-7695

Email: info@pslstrive.org

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

www.facebook.com/strivenation

Twitter: [@pslstrive](https://twitter.com/pslstrive)

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STRIVE
Post-Secondary Weekend

Here's your chance to learn more about our STRIVE U, Next STEP, and Bayside programs. Join us for a weekend-long seminar where you will have the opportunity to experience what goes on in each of the programs.

Date: October 4th-6th

Place: Camp Tall Pines Poland, ME

Cost: \$199 or \$175 if you register
by August 1st

For more information or to
register contact:

Erin Berg at 207-774-6278 or
eberg@pslservices.org