



www.pslstrive.org

STRIVE Newsletter

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 5

MAY 2013

Member Profile: Evan Caron

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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Program Updates	2
Contact Information	3
Thank You! Page	3
Member Page	4
Birthdays!	4
Tweens	5
Classes	5
STRIVE Events	5
Pictures	6

Evan Caron is a 21 year old STRIVE member who participates in STRIVE's Next STEP Program. Next STEP is an unique private-pay program focused on education, recreation, and leisure. Next STEP consists of two daily components-- Education and Recreational Development. Students spend their time learning and growing at both the STRIVE Center and in the local community. Evan graduated from Sanford High School a few years ago, and has found a way to meet his day to day social needs in lieu of his busy high school days. Evan has made many friends at Next STEP, and he admits that he has learned to "be nice and help others" during his days here. Evan says that since he graduated from high school he spends a lot of his weekdays on the computer and watching television. He enjoys coming to Next STEP because of the many engaging friends he has here. As Evan would say, it's difficult to be bored at Next STEP! Between volunteering in the community, daily exercise initiatives, cooking, and working on life and social skills, Next STEP students like Evan have a full day. Evan connects with all of the STRIVE staff and participants each day with a smile and a happy greeting. He is known throughout the STRIVE community as a friendly, caring, and curious young man. Building a social network is important for high school grads who are no longer surrounded by their peers on a daily basis. Next STEP is a place where Evan not only makes new friends, but also enjoys enriching activities with his peers each day.



Next STEP is now accepting applications for full and part-time participation. For more information, contact Betsy Morrison at (207)-774-6278 or bmorrison@pslservices.org.

STRIVE NEWS

STRIVE U News

Spring has sprung on the STRIVE U campus! Students and staff are gearing up for all the changes and excitement that come with the changing seasons and warmer weather. The lilies are adding some beautiful greenery to the campus and the crocuses are making their appearance slowly, but surely! The steps are getting re-painted, driveway swept, gardens raked, and things are really starting to glimmer and gleam these past few weeks on campus. Everyone seems to be walking around with a new 'summer is in the air' spring in their step!

Recently we had our annual 'spring cleaning' day where students complete a deep clean of their apartments, and staff work to make sure the office is as sparkling clean as the student's apartments by the end of the day. This was, of course, followed with a party! This year, due to a generous donation, we kicked it up a notch and turned it into a decadent ice cream sundae party! Students enjoyed their well-deserved sundaes and each other's company after a hard day's work.

Our new transition coordinator, Sarah Thurston, is working to find apartments for our second year students, and she has placed several students so far. This will continue throughout May, and we will begin to support these students in their new setting until they graduate on June 22nd! Our weekly exercise group has added yoga to its repertoire and it seems to be a hit, along with Zumba, among the students. With the warmer weather, we are excited to use the outdoors as our yoga studio, and venue for all of our various athletic expeditions!

Pro Search, STRIVE U's payroll processing partner and stand-out recruiting firm recently hired a first year student to assist with paystub mailings, filing, and keeping track of office supplies. Owner Leigh Kellis of Holy Donuts hired a second year student to help this rapidly growing bakery, breakfast and lunch hotspot. This student, whose goal was to work in food service, is being cross-trained to perform a variety of tasks from dish washing to donut making to serving customers. The West End Inn located in the heart of Portland's Western Promenade neighborhood hired a second year student to keep this busy inn spotless and organized. Upcoming interviews will be held at Prudential and The Via Agency. Thanks to Dan Osgood of Osgood Productions, an exciting opportunity to produce a video promoting successful STRIVE U employment partnerships is in the works. Dan is a professional videographer who has generously donated his time and expertise. The video will be launched on our Facebook page, sent to prospective employment partners, posted on our website and used to educate enrolled and prospective students about STRIVE U's Employment Program.

Overall, May is a month of growth and changes here at STRIVE U. Our students are staying on track working hard toward their goals, and every day we witness success and positivity. We as staff continue to support our students in all of these new transitions, and get joy out of seeing their continued success.

What's New with STRIVE Bayside

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! We are also very pleased to announce that our March MVP program participant is Stacey Bruns! Congratulations to Stacey for being independent at home with doing chores and taking initiative to exercise! STRIVE Bayside is having an **Open House on Tuesday, May 14th**



from 3:00-7:00pm. Please join us to tour the space, meet staff and learn more about this exciting program! STRIVE Bayside is now accepting applications for the afternoon session (1:00-5:00pm) starting September 9th, 2013. Program runs Monday through Friday over two years and is based in a 3-bedroom apartment in Back Bay Tower in Portland. Please contact Brianna McCabe at (207) 899-1725 or bmccabe@pslservices.org for more information, for an application or to schedule a tour.

Get Involved!

Thank You to April STRIVE Supporters

Gordon & Laurie Oliver
 US Cellular (Matching Gift!)
 Carol & Robert Niles
 E.C. Sanders
 Bruce McFarland
 Cynthia & Lawrence Vaughan
 Richard & Julie White
 Margaret & Craig Wilson
 Richard & Bridget Whiting
 Norman & Marion Brown
 Michael and Lynn Spadinger
 Leonard Gulino
 Will & Erin Rowan
 Unum (Matching Gift!)
 Truist, Inc.

W. Jane Sternberg
 Keith & Kimberly Johnson
Francesca Eastman
in honor of Parker McCormack

The following gifts are in memory of Mr. Lynn Markee:

Tom Markee & Claudette,
 Dot Rideout
 Bill & Gayle Begin
 Lorriaine Boucher
 Ruth & Kirk Markee
 Lorraine Boucher
 Fern & Susan Masse
 Patricia Vierra

Ian and Janice Ormon
 C. Towle & D. Towle
 Donald and Julie Brawn
 Audrey and Carl McGee
 Edith Jordan
 Kimberly Gailey
 M.W. Philbrook Jr. & Sandra Philbrook
 Robert & Brenda Carleton
 Pauline R. Poulin
 Linda Markee
 Elizabeth Caron-St. Cry &
 Fredrick St. Cyr
 Phyllis & Ronald Curtis
 Victor & Carol Lindquist
 M. Suzanne Tymoczko

Easy Ways to Support STRIVE



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



Follow Us on Facebook
 Daily Updates
 STRIVE Pictures

To stay connected visit:
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!

Questions, Comments, or Concerns – Contact Our Staff!

Michael Faust
 PSL Services Executive Director
mfaust@pslservices.org
Peter Brown
 STRIVE & STRIVE U Program Director
pbrown@pslservices.org
Kristina Smalley
 STRIVE Program Manager
ksmalley@pslservices.org
Brianna McCabe
 STRIVE Bayside Coordinator
bmccabe@pslservices.org
Erin Saul
 STRIVE Program Coordinator
esaul@pslservices.org
Shannon Olejar
 STRIVE Special Projects Coordinator
solejar@pslservices.org
Betsy Morrison
 STRIVE U and Next STEP Program Manager
bmorrison@pslservices.org

Bill Hughes
 STRIVE/STRIVE U Programs
bhughes@pslservices.org
Sarah Thurston
 STRIVE U Transition Coordinator
sthurston@pslservices.org
Erin Berg
 STRIVE U Admissions Coordinator
eberg@pslservices.org
Katie Collins
 STRIVE U Student Life Coordinator
kcollins@pslservices.org
Liz Guillerault
 STRIVE U Education & Training Coordinator
eclark@pslservices.org
MaryAnn Schwanda
 STRIVE U Employment Coordinator
mschwanda@pslservices.org

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

STRIVE Night's Groovy

60's Party!

May 24th 6-9pm

Bust out those bell bottoms, peace signs, and groovy tie-dye for this fun theme night!

Cost is \$10 for STRIVE members!



Member Spotlight: Graeme Bock



How old are you: 15

Favorite movie: The Avengers

Favorite color: Yellow

Favorite holiday: Halloween

Coollest activity at STRIVE this year: Wolfe's Neck Woods Hike and making vases for Mother's Day

Favorite song: Pokemon Theme Song

Dream job: Manager for the OOB Marching Band

Talents: Running, playing video games, and castle protection

May Birthdays



Jonathan Powell
Niels Doughty
Alexandra Agostino
Miranda Doughty
Jamie Trites
Nicholas Taddia
Matthew Leeman
Chantelle Blanchard
Eric Hughes
Mona Cates
Kyle Cutter
Tyler Cartwright
Leah Gouldsbrough
Andrea Davidson
Jason Wotton
Joshua Weidemann

Andrew Wildes
Caroline Frawley
Spring Grace
Lane Grant
Aphrodite Makrides
Jesse Leslie
Michael Angers
Kaya Thompson
Molly Snowden
Elizabeth Gray
Alisha Wade
Andrew McIver
Andy Cormier
Johnathan Lucas
Nick Watkins
Tommy LeBerge

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!

May 3rd— Movie Night
May 10th— UNUM fun & activities
May 17th—Sparks Ark!
Don't miss the Maine Wildlife at STRIVE

May 24th—Groovy 60s Party!
Grab your tie dye and bell-bottoms!
May 31st— Super Challenge Day
Feel free to call Shannon at STRIVE at 774-6278 with any questions about our Tweens Program!

Monday Night Wellness Classes Series

Going Green!
5:30-7:00 pm
June 17th-August 5th

Learn about eco-friendly living! This series costs \$20. For more information, contact Shannon at (207) 774-6278 or solejar@psslservices.org.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Kiwanis Aktion Club
May 1st, 15th, 29th
3:30pm

Member Advisory Board Meeting
May 3rd, 7th, 31st
5:00pm

STRIVE Bayside Open House
May 14th at Back Bay Towers
3:00-7:00pm!

STRIVE CLOSED for Memorial Day
May 27th

sheJAMS Dynamic Dirt Challenge
June 2nd at Pineland Farms
9:00am

Camp STRIVE Summer Sessions Begin!
June 19th
9am-5pm

STRIVE U Class of 2013 Graduation
June 20th
10:00am

Going Green Class
June 17th-August 5th
5:30pm-7:00pm

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@psslservices.org.

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, May 8th. 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@psslservices.org or (207)-774-6278.

STRIVE Pictures



Above: STRIVE Bayside participants and staff are ready for the sunny summer months ahead in Portland! Don't forget about the Open House at STRIVE Bayside on May 14th!



Above: High Fives at Next STEP: STRIVE's unique private pay, education, recreation and leisure program. Now accepting applications for full and part-time participation. For more information, contact Betsy Morrison at (207)-774-6278 or bmorrison@psservices.org.



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 774-6278 or eberg@psservices.org



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

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

Return Service Requested

STRIVE is excited to be the co-beneficiary of the sheJAMS Dynamic Dirt Challenge on Sunday June 2, 2013 at Pineland Farms! This is a hardcore, 4+ mile obstacle course designed to challenge your all around strength, stamina, and mental grit! Friends of STRIVE will receive a \$5 discount on the registration fee. Email info@pslstrive.org for the discount code. Register today as race spots are filling up fast!

Visit dynamicdirtchallenge.com for detailed information about the race and sheJAMS. Thank you to sheJAMS and all of the Dynamic Dirt Challenge participants for supporting STRIVE!



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



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!



If you would like to run in this year's Beach to Beacon for STRIVE, if so, please contact our office as soon as possible! STRIVE has a limited amount of spaces for the August 3rd race in exchange for fundraising a minimum of \$300 for the STRIVE programs. FMI: Contact STRIVE at 207.774.6278



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
FMI: Contact STRIVE at 207.774.6278



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