



www.pslstrive.org

STRIVE Newsletter

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MAY 2015

STRIVE Breaks Ground!

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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On Thursday, April 23rd, STRIVE broke ground, marking the beginning of a 16-week expansion project. This project will add 3300 square feet to the STRIVE Center, allowing each of our programs to have both classroom and meeting spaces. The expansion will also include numerous improvements such as an internal wheelchair ramp, air conditioning, and updated lighting.

To help us break ground, we had a representative from each program that the expansion will directly impact. Each member shared with us what they love about STRIVE and what they are looking forward to most in the expansion project. From a table for folding clothes in a new laundry room to air conditioning in the STRIVE Center, each member offered great examples of what they were most excited for.

The total financial goal for this project is \$2.05 million, allowing us to pay for the building, the renovations, and have an endowment fund to ensure proper upkeep of the new facility. We are truly thankful for all the support from local businesses, as well as community leaders.

If you'd like to learn more about this exciting project or if you'd like to get involved, please contact Peter Brown at pbrown@pslservices.org or call 207.879.0847.



Thank you to all those who have pledged their support of STRIVE's Capital Campaign:

John Opperman
 Glenn Johnson and Michelle Giroux
 Anonymous Donors
 Peter and Karen Jannace
 Hartley and Benson Webster
 Iberdrola USA Foundation
 UPS Foundation
 Tim and Aileen Agnew

Estate of Anna H. Geiger
 The Lunder Foundation
 Bill and Peg Ryan
 UNUM
 Saco Biddeford Savings
 John T. Gorman Foundation
 Portland Kiwanis Club
 Hunter Panels
 Steven Frawley
 Dave and Paula Thompson

STRIVE NEWS

Program Spotlight: Camp STRIVE

If you are between the ages of 11 and 24 and you are looking for something to do this summer, Camp STRIVE might be for you! Camp STRIVE is a great way to spend your vacation—from exploring Mackworth Island to touring Haven's Candy Factory to making crafts, Camp is full of fun activities each day.

**Summer Camp STRIVE begins Monday, June 22nd and runs until September 4th.
Join us for day, a week, or all summer!**

Each day will begin at STRIVE at 9am and will end at 5pm. We do offer an Early Drop-Off option at 8am for an additional fee and must be arranged in advance.

Camp STRIVE is held every vacation week, including all summer. Camp provides tweens, teens, and young adults with developmental disabilities the opportunity to have fun and make new friends in a safe, inclusive atmosphere. Daily activities include arts and crafts, games and sports, and field trips to local attractions.

To learn more about Camp STRIVE or to get a registration form, please contact Katelynn Davis at kdavis@pssl-services.org or call 207.774.6278.



Welcome to our Camp STRIVE Counselors for Summer 2015—
Katelyn Thorne and Hilary Campbell!

Let's meet our first camp counselor!

Name: **Katie**

Hometown: **Saco, ME**

Favorite Color: **Purple**

Favorite Sports Team: **Boston Red Sox**

Favorite TV Show: **Friends**

What are you looking forward to most at Camp STRIVE this summer? **Exploring the Community!**

Our Camp Counselors will be starting in May—be sure to stop by and welcome them to STRIVE!

What's Going on at STRIVE U!

STRIVE U has accepted our new class! The new students will be coming to Kaplan and STRIVE throughout the month of May to meet each other, their new roommates, and to learn more about the adventure they are about to start.

Second year students are tremendously busy as they look towards graduation. Many are in the process of interviewing for long term employment and finding their next apartments. The students are also planning a trip to Boston scheduled for June. First year students are getting ready to meet their new roommates and transition into their second and final year of the program. More and more students are entering the work force and all are continuing to learn about safely navigating the community as they start to embrace the activities available in Portland during this time of year. There are a lot of exciting changes on the horizon for this group of talented individuals.

Save the Date!

STRIVE U's Class of 2015 is graduating on Saturday, June 27th at 10am.

This year's ceremony will be held at Portland Stage Company.

All are welcome to celebrate this exciting milestone with our students!



To learn more about the STRIVE U Program, please contact Erin Berg at eberg@psslservices.org or call 207.774.6278

Inspired Towards Growth in Next STEP!

As the weather had turned warmer, we have been inspired! This past month, Next STEP focused on sustainability and also on art. Next STEP had an instructional session from Garbage to Garden, where they have been volunteering monthly, to learn about planting and using compost. They also had a guest presenter from O'Donals Nursery join to teach the participants how to plant seeds. The group planted several trays of seeds in the middle of the month and plans to grow some vegetables which can be used in the summer during their Friday food lab. In addition, Next STEP connected with MECA, received a tour, and spoke with them about creating art. They then coupled that with spending some time navigating in downtown Portland. Later in the month, Next STEP was invited to USM's campus in Gorham view their end of the semester art show.

On April 14th, Next STEP hosted an open house. The participants baked cookies, prepared veggie platters, and created a slide show about the program for guests who were interested in learning more.

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 service. Please contact Katie Collins at 207-774-6278 or kcollins@psslservices.org if you would like more information regarding Next STEP.

After School at STRIVE

After School has been busy celebrating Spring! From planting flowers to picking up garbage at local parks, they have been taking advantage of the warmer weather. Our students have also been busy with school coming to an end, working on various end-of-the-year projects.

Designed for high school students, STRIVE's After School program provides learning that goes beyond the classroom. Students work in small groups with STRIVE staff on a variety of goals determined by students and their families. Goals include cooking and making snacks, community safety, and homework, all while reinforcing social and independent living skills.

After School runs Monday through Friday 2pm to 5pm. Come one day a week or everyday! Transportation and Early Release pick-up available.

Though the school year is coming to an end soon, it isn't too early to start thinking about the fall! If you are interested in the After School program for the 2015-2016 school year, please contact Katelynn Davis at kdavis@psslservices.org or call 207.774.6278 to get more information or to set up a tour.

May Theme Night:
Spring Fling!

Spring

Friday, May 29th
6:00—9:00pm
Cost: \$10

Our annual Spring Fling Semi-Formal will be held on Friday, May 29th. Come dressed up or in jeans! We will be playing games and making some yummy Spring Snacks!

FMI: Contact Katelynn at kdavis@pslservices.org or call 207.774.6278

Wednesday Night Educational Classes

Wednesdays, May 6th to 27th
6:00—8:00pm • Cost: \$20

Community Connections



Join us to learn about the resources offered by your local community—and take advantage of all it has to offer! We will be learning about the METRO bus system and other forms of transportation, voting and elections, grocery shopping, volunteering, and more.

June 3rd—24th: World Cultures

Explore different cultures around the world in this fun and informative series! We will be learning about the history, dress, language, food, and geography of other countries.

July 1st—29th: Creative Arts

Explore different cultures around the world in this fun and informative series! We will be learning about the history, dress, language, food, and geography of other countries.

STRIVE's Wednesday Night Educational Classes are held every Wednesday at the STRIVE Center with a different series each month. Past classes have included Healthy Relationships, Cooking and Culinary Arts, Internet Safety, Career Exploration and Job Planning, and so much more.

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

May Birthdays

- Ryan Dufor
- Taneka Burwell
- Joseph Gephart
- Kaya Thompson
- Alisha Wade
- Andrew McIver
- Greyson Sciaraffa
- Niels Doughty
- Alexandra Agostino
- Jack Rosenblum
- Jamie Trites
- Hailey Crowell
- Nicholas Taddia
- Matthew Leeman
- Isabella Joyce
- Madeline Joyce
- Caitlyn Welsch
- Tyler Cartwright
- Zachary Sprague
- Leah Gouldsbrough
- Gabe Brewington
- Jason Wotton

- Joshua Weidemann
- Molly Snowden
- Melissa Goodman
- Jordan Emerson
- Philip Greene
- Andrew Wildes
- Nick Watkins
- Spring Grace
- Elizabeth Gray
- Aphrodite Makrides
- Jesse Leslie
- Mary Burke



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!
Cost: \$10*

May 1st: Yoga with Jenna from Maine Yoga Kids

May 8th: UNUM

May 15th: Red Cross Presentation

May 22nd: Field Day and Spring Celebration!

April 24th: Cooking with Chef Brad

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

Thank you to our April Donors!

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Edwin Kinnerly	Lois & Michael
Danielle Cantara	Dennison
Ran Dineen	Dorothy Egin
Alex Lorello	Patricia Wilson
Jill Piacentini	William Taplin
Jeffrey Nielson	Brian Fox
Jonathan Brouillet	Ton & Tina Bourdeaux
Charles Biasin	John LoBosco
Robert Bastey	Keith & Kimberly
Jolene McNally	Johnson
Bank of America	
Robert Junkins	
Brian & Shelly Shibles	

Aktion Club
May 13th and 27th, 3:15pm

Member Advisory Board Meeting
May 8th and 22nd, 5:30pm

Wednesday Night Education Classes
May 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th
6:00—8:00pm

Memorial Day STRIVE Closed
Monday, May 25th

Tweens:
Every Friday, 3:30-5:30pm

STRIVE Night:
Every Friday, 6:00-9:00pm

Our "Fund-Racers" Need YOUR Help!



We have lots of people running for STRIVE in the upcoming TD Bank Beach to Beacon 10k Road Race. But, they need your help to reach their fundraising goals! Just go to www.firstgiving.com/strive and select the 2015 Beach to Beacon Fundraising Page. You can then donate to any one of our amazing runners!

For more information, please contact Katelynn Davis at kdavis@pslservices.org or call 207.774.6278.

STRIVE Pride Day 2015

On Monday, April 20th, STRIVE held its annual STRIVE Pride Day!

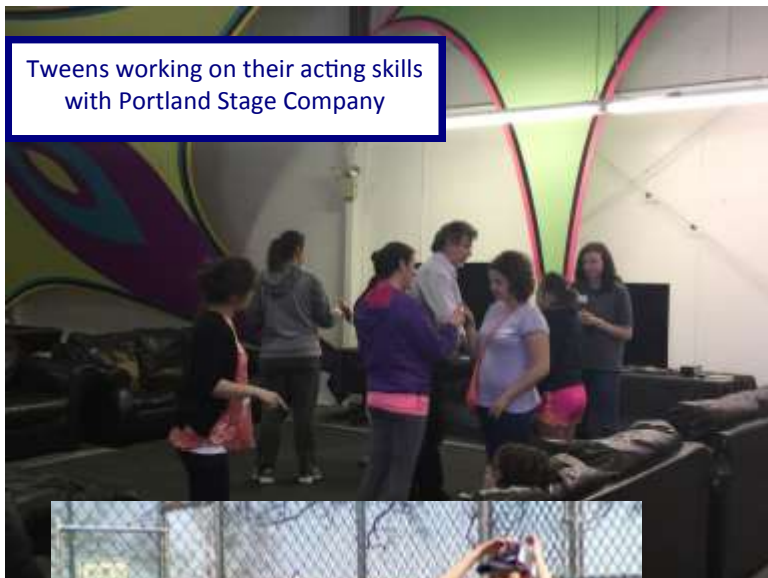
We did some spring cleaning, making inside and outside of the STRIVE Center look the best it can be. Everyone worked SO hard, picking up trash, raking leaves, trimming trees, planting flowers, and tearing down a broken basketball hoop. Because of everyone's efforts, the STRIVE Center looked perfect for our ground breaking ceremony later that week. At the end of the day, we celebrate with a barbeque and handed out prizes to those who worked the hardest throughout the day.

A huge thank you to all staff, members, and families who came out to help!

Check out some scenes from this year's clean up day:



STRIVE Pictures



Tweens working on their acting skills with Portland Stage Company



Next STEP visiting the Maine College of Art!



After School at Fort Williams



Mulching on STRIVE Pride Day!



Next STEP preparing for their Open House

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

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