



www.pslstrive.org

# STRIVE Newsletter

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2012

## STRIVE Annual Auction: THANK YOU!

STRIVE is excited to announce that the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Live & Silent Auction raised \$53,868. STRIVE is grateful to all of those who donated, volunteered, attended and sponsored our auction and helped our program in exceeding our goal of raising \$50,000! On October 10<sup>th</sup>, more than 350 guests attended the event at the Ocean Gateway in Portland to bid on a wide variety of silent and live items. STRIVE is grateful to Norway Savings Bank for being the title sponsor and supporting STRIVE by introducing 2-Time Olympic Gold Medalist Seth Wescott to STRIVE. Seth signed autographs and spoke in support of STRIVE's mission and programs during the auction. Thank you to all of those who helped in our success, on behalf of all of us at STRIVE, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your support.



Thank you to the following auction sponsors:

Norway Savings Bank, Whole Foods, Coca-Cola, Shaw's, KISC, IDEXX Laboratories, Portland J&Co JCPA, This Thyme Around LLC, David & Fela Shapell Family Foundation, CBRE | The Boulos Company, LAW OFFICE OF JAMES CLIFFORD, COLLISION & COMPANY, IDEXX LABORATORIES

Thank you for supporting STRIVE!

### 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 U NEWS

## Apply Now for STRIVE U Class of 2015



Applications are now being accepted for STRIVE U Class of 2015. STRIVE U grants admission to students whose academic credentials, scholastic achievement, and personal motivation demonstrate a promise of success in its academic programs. For more information, or to schedule a tour please contact Erin Berg at (207)-774-6278 or [eberg@pslservices.org](mailto:eberg@pslservices.org)



## STRIVE U Works:

TD Bank hosted several STRIVE U students at a recent People With Disabilities Mentor/Mentee event. This day-long tour began at TD Bank Operations building in West Falmouth where students toured each department and learned about the variety of services TD Bank offers their customers. Our tour guides choreographed each segment flawlessly and provided a thorough, meaningful overview of employment at TD Bank. Students also toured the Northgate store where they discovered how cash counting machines operate and each had a turn at the interactive Penny Arcade, a free-of-charge coin counting machine that rewards math skills and encourages everyone to save their pennies!

To the delight and complete surprise of a second year STRIVE U student who is employed here, Woodard & Curran hosted a One Year Anniversary party in her honor. Complete with breakfast goodies, a Woodard & Curran fleece and mug for chilly days ahead, the surprise celebration was attended by co-workers from the various departments this student supports. It was a fun and delicious celebration!



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](mailto:mschwanda@pslservices.org) or call 207-774-6278.*



# STRIVE NEWS

## Save the Date: STRIVE Bayside Open House

**November 28<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m.-7:00p.m.**

Come join us for an Open House at Backbay Towers located at 401 Cumberland Avenue. Are you interested in expanding your independent living skills or do you know or work with individuals who do? Come to our open house. STRIVE Bayside is a two year section 29 Community Support Program that opened in September with the mission of assisting people with developmental disabilities to live a more independent life. We currently have openings for this year and will start a new session in the summer of 2013. We hope to see future applicants, families, case managers, and anyone interested in what STRIVE Bayside has to offer. For more information please contact Bill Hughes at 774-6278 or Brianna McCabe at 8991725.

## STRIVE's Newest Program: STRIVE Bayside

STRIVE Bayside is a new community supports program which started on September 17<sup>th</sup> and is dedicated to expanding independent living skills and community connections for people with developmental disabilities! This program utilizes the STRIVE U curriculum which has been used to assist young people with disabilities to live and work in their communities and also involves consistent hands-on learning opportunities. 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. During program we do a variety of activities including menu planning, grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning, laundry, banking and budgeting, exercising at the YMCA, visiting the library and much more! STRIVE Bayside runs from 9:00am-1:00pm from Monday to Friday and is two years in duration. The program is based in a three-bedroom apartment in Portland which we use, along with the community around us, to learn independent living skills. We have space for two more participants in this program. Please contact Brianna McCabe at (207) 899-1725 or [bmccabe@pslservices.org](mailto:bmccabe@pslservices.org) for more



## Next STEP Update: What Does a Week at Next STEP Look Like?

Next Step is in full fall swing ! We would like to share a little more about what a typical week at Next STEP looks like. Monday morning we practiced our social/conversation skills by having a group discussion about every ones' weekend, and we came up with questions to show interest in one another during the conversation. Next, we posed the question 'How can I be more independent here at Next Step?' and had significant discussion following. 'Cooking Fridays' came up in the conversation, and Kristine and Rory decided to work on taking a step back during grocery shopping and cooking. The group decided to use a few recipes that everyone feels comfortable making independently, and to also try to learn about meals/snacks that students can make at home without much assistance. Morning and afternoon free times are usually a time in which we practice more independence. Rory and Kristine initiate games and activities. Tuesday morning the group did some hard work at a local clothing closet, The Root Cellar, and then came back to STRIVE for a little math and calculator work before lunch time. After lunch we headed to the library, where the group practiced more independence skills. We had a brainstorming session on what the students wanted to accomplish at the library. Rory worked with some students on making long term and short term budgets and discussing common fallacies about money and credit cards. On Wednesday we had a great discussion in the morning about problem solving and flexibility in decision making. Each Next Step student worked on an individual problem and then shared with the class the process of working through that problem. We learned that some problems are just a multitude of options that need to be sorted out. In the afternoon we went to Gorham's Myspace to have a game of kickball and soccer. On the way home we stopped at Starbucks and everyone worked on their money and ordering skills. We had a great discussion around an upcoming project we are working on: Can't tell you yet what it is: but it will be great!! On Thursday Bill facilitated a discussion around citizen rights and responsibilities that then led into a discussion of voting rights. We will be doing more around voting in the coming weeks. Friday, a participant is taking the lead on getting the group organized for shopping, cooking and our movie afternoon. As you can see, Next STEP is a busy group! Check out the STRIVE website for great pictures and student blogs: [pslstrive.org](http://pslstrive.org)

# Get Involved!

## Thank You October STRIVE Supporters

Bigelow Investments	Lea Tunney
Cynthia and Larry Vaughan	John Palmer
Carlos and Julie Montgomery	Nancy Pond
David and Sharon Michaud	Paul Lamb
The Whiting Family	William Gourde
Pamela Houk	Laurie Oliver
Ameriprise Financial	Pat Bailey
Nicholas Vaughan	Elaine Smalley
Elizabeth Potter	Gregory Cyr
Mike & Beth Rand	George Houk
Lisa Bowie	David & Mary Guiseley

## Margarita's Full Moon Madness!

Margarita's Mexican Restaurant at 11 Brown Street in Portland is hosting a fundraiser for STRIVE. Come join the party on Thursday November 1st and Wednesday November 28<sup>th</sup>! 5% of all gross lounge sales will be donated to **STRIVE**.

## United Way Designations

### Designate STRIVE as the Beneficiary of your United Way Gift

Did you know that you can select STRIVE as the beneficiary of your United Way contribution? You Can!

If your workplace does an annual United Way Campaign, please consider listing STRIVE as the beneficiary of your gift! Thanks for your support!

Any questions, please feel free to contact Peter Brown at [pbrown@pslservices.org](mailto:pbrown@pslservices.org)



## Maine Marathon Update: Thank you!



STRIVE is excited to announce that the Maine Marathon raised \$50,000 to in support of STRIVE programs. We are extremely grateful for the two year partnership with the Maine Marathon and the support of all who came out to run, walk, volunteer, and help raise funds for STRIVE. THANK YOU!

## Questions, Comments, or Concerns – Contact Our Staff!

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[mfaust@pslservices.org](mailto:mfaust@pslservices.org)

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**STRIVE Night Harvest Dance!**  
**Friday November 16<sup>th</sup>**




**STRIVE Rocks!!!**  
**Yeeehaaaw!!**

**Wear your favorite cowboy or cowgirl gear and get ready for a boot stompin', giddy-up good time!**

**The fun starts at 6pm sharp! See you there!**

**Member Spotlight:**



**Jackie Guiseley**

**How old are you:** 19  
**Favorite movie:** Breaking Dawn  
**Favorite color:** Black  
**Favorite holiday:** My Birthday!  
**Coollest activity at STRIVE this year:**  
 Make a lot of new friends  
**What actor would you choose to star in your life story:** Ashley Tisdale  
**Favorite song:** Call Me Maybe by Carly Rae Jepsen  
**Dream job:** Horseback riding instructor for kids  
**Talents:** Talking to little kids, being friendly and helpful

**November Birthdays** 

Happy Birthday to the Following STRIVE Members!

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Cullen Whiting</b>   | <b>Patrick Cox</b>       |
| <b>David Estes</b>      | <b>Savanna Andrews</b>   |
| <b>Ashley Elliott</b>   | <b>Alexis Cote</b>       |
| <b>Michael Blodgett</b> | <b>Ted Prescott</b>      |
| <b>Rebecca Dietlin</b>  | <b>Bart Kyle Bornw</b>   |
| <b>Scott King</b>       | <b>Nicholas Jipson</b>   |
| <b>Paulina Kilmet-</b>  | <b>James Finlay</b>      |
| <b>Cornett</b>          | <b>Mark Hoglund</b>      |
| <b>Grace Decker-</b>    | <b>Gregory Gulino</b>    |
| <b>Fetherolf</b>        | <b>Christopher Bell</b>  |
| <b>Fred Warren</b>      | <b>Jevyn Neves</b>       |
| <b>Jonathan Tingley</b> |                          |
| <b>Eben Raszmann</b>    | <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!</b> |

**Camp STRIVE: November 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Register Now! STRIVE will be offering Camp STRIVE on Wednesday November 21<sup>st</sup> from 9am-5pm. Cost is \$45 for a day of fun social and recreational activities.**

**For more information contact Erin at [esaul@pslservices.org](mailto:esaul@pslservices.org) or call (207)-774-6278.**

## Members' Page and Events

### 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!

#### November Schedule:

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hip Hop Dance Class**

**November 9<sup>th</sup>: UNUM Activities**

**November 16<sup>th</sup>: Harvest Dance and Safety City**

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>: STRIVE is CLOSED– Happy Thanksgiving!**

**November 30<sup>th</sup> : Obstacle Course Competition**

**See you on Friday!**

### Monday Night International Culture Classes

#### A Taste of the World!

November 5<sup>th</sup> – December 17<sup>th</sup>  
Mondays from 6pm-8pm

This exciting series will focus on a variety of different cultures! Each week we will learn about the history, dress, food, language, geography and other fun facts about countries like Ireland, Burundi, Italy, Greece, China, Somalia, and Mexico. Some examples of activities that will be included during the class are dancing, cooking, and musical performances.

This series costs \$20. For more information, contact Shannon at (207) 774-6278 or solejar@pslservices.org.

### Wednesday Night Educational Class Series

#### Employment and Job Preparation Series

November 7<sup>th</sup>- December 19<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00pm

The focus of this course is to develop and practice job hunting and employment skills. From creating your resume and cover letter to practicing interview skills with business professionals from Portland, we will cover it all!

This series costs \$20. For more information, contact Shannon at (207) 774-6278 or solejar@pslservices.org

### November Meetings & Events

#### Member Advisory Board Meeting

November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>  
5:00pm

#### Kiwanis Aktion Club

November 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>  
3:30pm

#### Tio Juan's Margaritas Mexican Restaurant Full Moon Madness

##### STRIVE Fundraiser

Wednesday November 28<sup>th</sup>  
4:00pm– 11:00pm

#### Camp STRIVE: Thanksgiving Break Edition

Wednesday November 21<sup>st</sup>  
9:00am-5:00pm

#### Employment and Job Preparation Series

Wednesdays November 7<sup>th</sup> - December 19<sup>th</sup>  
6:00-8:00pm

#### International Culture Series

Mondays November 5<sup>th</sup>-December 17<sup>th</sup>  
6pm-8pm

#### STRIVE Night Harvest Dance

Friday November 16<sup>th</sup>  
6:00-9:00pm

#### STRIVE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

Veterans Day: Monday November 12<sup>th</sup>  
Thanksgiving: Thursday November 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Day After Thanksgiving: Friday November 23<sup>rd</sup>

#### STRIVE Bayside Open House

Wednesday November 28<sup>th</sup>  
3:00-7:00pm

#### STRIVE's 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party &

#### Volunteer Appreciation Celebration

All aged– out STRIVE members are welcome back for the anniversary event!  
December 7<sup>th</sup> 6:00-9:00pm

### Wrap for a Reason: December 9<sup>th</sup>- December 11<sup>th</sup>

Save the date! STRIVE is looking for volunteers to help us wrap gifts at the Maine Mall from December 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. For three days we will be wrapping gifts for donations, all to support STRIVE's many programs. If you are interested in volunteering contact Kristina at ksmalley@pslservices.org with your preferred shift times and availability.

# STRIVE Pictures



Above: Next STEP students Patrick, Sophie, Josh, Nate, and Yvonne enjoying hot drinks at the local Panera.



Above: STRIVE U Student, Lucas, volunteering at the Auction.



Above: Program Director Pete Brown and STRIVE member Bennett Agnew at the 2012 Maine Marathon. Bennett's artwork was used in the awards ceremony at the Maine Marathon winners this year.



Above: Jimmy and Patrick enjoying the STRIVE Night Halloween Party.

**THANK YOU!**

**STRIVE would like to thank the following supporters who donated silent items to our annual auction:**

<p>351 West                  A&amp; W Construction                  AAA of Northern New England                  Acres of Wildlife Campground                  Agren Appliance                  Allagash Brewing Company                  Allspeed Cyclery &amp; Snow                  Amato's                  AMQuilts.com                  Amtrak Downeaster                  Angela Adams                  Anthony's Italian Kitchen                  Apache Campground                  Bangor Savings Bank                  Barber Foods                  Bayside Bowl                  Beir Cellar                  Belissimo                  Best Shape of your Life                  Biddeford Saco Country Club                  Big Sky Bread Company                  Bill Dodge Auto Group                  BJ's Wholesale Club                  Black Point Surf Shop                  Blow Brothers                  Blue Rock Industries                  Bob &amp; Linda Fuller                  Broadway Gardens                  Bull Feeneys                  Caiolas                  Canopy Maine                  Cape on the Run                  Capozza Tile                  Caravan Beads                  Caravan's                  Cartridge World                  Casco Bay Frames &amp; Gallery                  Casco Bay Lines                  Celebrities for Charity Foundation                  ChArt Metalworks                  Chebeague Island Inn                  Children's Museum &amp; Theatre of Maine                  Chuck E' Cheese                  Cinemagic                  Cityside Auto Service                  Clay Play                  The Maine Mall</p>	<p>Coastal Equipment Corporation                  Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens                  Coca-Cola of Northern New England                  Cole Haan                  Cosmetic Enhancement Center                  Couleur Collection                  Creative Office Pavilion                  Cross Jewelers                  Curtis A. Obrey D.M.D                  Custom Built Certified Personal Training                  Daydream Bodyworks                  Day's Jewelers                  DeLorme                  Dickey's BBQ                  DYetta Design Studio                  Doc's                  Double Tree by Hilton                  Downeast Energy                  EcoHome Studio                  Embers                  Eric's Pizza Express                  Fajita Grill                  Falmouth Country Club                  Family Guy                  Famous Dave's                  Farnsworth Art Museum                  Flatbread Company                  Fore Street                  Fox                  Fox Ridge Golf Club                  Freeze Frame Photography                  Gelato Fiasco                  Great Lost Bear                  Greater Portland YMCA                  Gritty's                  Hampton Inn Freeport                  Hannafords                  Harmon's &amp; Barton's                  Have Chef Will Travel                  Higgin's Capet One                  Holiday Inn By the Bay                  Home Again by Hancock Lumber                  Hot Suppa                  Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel                  Irv Shapell                  Izanna                  Jason Briggs                  John Lane's Ogunquit Playhouse</p>	<p>Joseph Cousins                  Kamasoupra                  Kingfisher Pottery                  Lazy Boy                  LL Bean                  Long's Board Shop                  Lowe's                  Lucinda's Day Spa                  LUSH                  Macaroni Grill                  Macy's                  Maine Aviation Flight School                  Maine Food Tour                  Maine Magazine                  Maine Red Claws                  Maine State Ballet                  Maine Woolens                  Mainely Custard                  Margarita's                  Midas                  Mohegan Boat line                  National Distributors Inc                  Newbury Comics                  Nonesuch River Golf Club                  Office of Senator Snowe                  Olivia's Organics                  Owls Head Transportation Museum                  Panera Bread                  Patricia Neja Yoga Instructor                  Patty Cakes                  Paul G. White                  Pepsi                  Pineland Farms                  Planet Dog                  Port City Flooring                  Port City Photography                  Portland Dine Around                  Portland Glass                  Portland House of Pizza                  Portland Pie                  Portland Pirates                  Portland Pottery                  Portland Schooner Company                  Portland Sea Dogs                  Portland Stage                  PortSports                  Pro Vision Center                  Profenno's</p>
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**THANK YOU! Continued**

**Silent Auction Item donors continued:**

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 Verrill Dana  
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 Wine Wise  
 Young's Furniture

**Thank you to all of our Live Auction Item donors:**

Bier Cellar  
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 Portland Sea Dogs  
 Portland Symphony Orchestra  
 Rep. Wayne Perry  
 Ron Leeking & Donna Roggenthien  
 Seaside Landscapes  
 Seth Wescott  
 Sonny's  
 The Sheriff of Cumberland County  
 Tom & Tina Bourdeaux  
 UNUM  
 VIP Charter Coaches  
 Whole Foods

**STRIVE's Annual Live and Silent Auction would not have been possible without our event sponsors:**

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 David & Fela Shapell Family Foundation  
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 Maine Educations Services  
 Ocean Gate Realty  
 Portland Collision  
 Pro Search, Inc.  
 Shaw's  
 Stone Coast Fund Services  
 The Boyne Sirois Group  
 This Thyme Around LLC  
 Vose –Smith Florist  
 Whole Foods Market  
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***STRIVE would also like to thank our many friends and anonymous supporters who donated items to STRIVE's Annual Live and Silent Auction. Thank You!***

**Visit our website:  
[www.pslstrive.org](http://www.pslstrive.org)**

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

Has your address, phone or email changed?

Email us at [info@pslstrive.org](mailto:info@pslstrive.org)

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 Twitter: @pslstrive

