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# STRIVE Newsletter

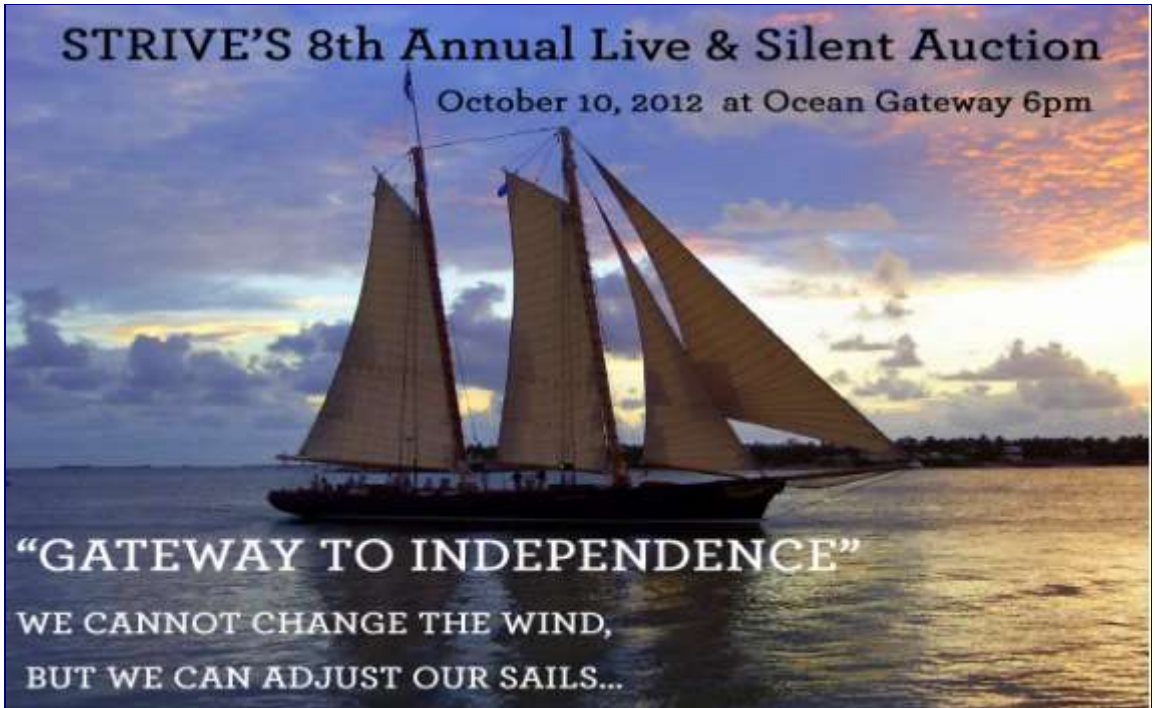
VOLUME 12 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2012

## SAVE THE DATE!

### STRIVE'S 8th Annual Live & Silent Auction

October 10, 2012 at Ocean Gateway 6pm



**"GATEWAY TO INDEPENDENCE"**  
WE CANNOT CHANGE THE WIND,  
BUT WE CAN ADJUST OUR SAILS...

#### Join Us for STRIVE's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Live & Silent Auction

October 10<sup>th</sup> \* 6:00-9:00pm

Ocean Gateway \* Downtown Portland

Please save the date and join STRIVE at this year's annual event. Every year this auction proves to be one of the best local events and we want you to share in that success! Tickets can be purchased ahead of time for \$25 or at the door for \$30. If you would like more information on the auction or to view a list of current items please visit [www.pslstrive.org/auction](http://www.pslstrive.org/auction) or email Kristina at [ksmalley@pslstrive.org](mailto:ksmalley@pslstrive.org).

#### Thank you to this years Auction Sponsors:



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

## STRIVE U Students Making Strides in September

The STRIVE U Family and Friends BBQ was held on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. This is a yearly event for the current STRIVE U Students and their family and friends to get together and meet each other, and enjoy lunch and play games. This year, first year student, Mat Poland, and his family generously contributed lobsters and helped turn the BBQ into a really spectacular feast! Around 50 family members and friends attended and spent the afternoon together.



Congratulations to 1<sup>st</sup> year STRIVE U student, Lucas Houk who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the STRIVE for FIVE: Foden Road 5K.



## STRIVE U Works

A First Year and Second Year student recently participated in the Portland Field Office Open House for the Angus King Campaign for U.S. Senate. They did a great job greeting visitors and new volunteers and attended a field office training session. These students have been hired to help with lawn signs, campaign literature and events until Election Day, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

A first year student will spend a day at MEMIC job shadowing a STRIVE U graduate and hopefully earn the opportunity to interview at this top-notch company! MEMIC has supported STRIVE U with valuable employment opportunities for students since 2004.

Beginning in October, First Year students will choose from a series of global skills assessment tests to evaluate areas of strength as well as identify skills that need further development in order to be successful in a professional office environment. Titles such as Office Filing, Business Etiquette, Microsoft Word, Excel, Internet Basics, Typing and Math Skills will be included.

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

## Apply Now for STRIVE U Class of 2014

Applications are now being accepted for STRIVE U Class of 2014. 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 Peter Brown at (207)-774-6278.



STRIVE U alumni Brandon, Katie and Kelsey celebrate on STRIVE U Class of 2012 graduation day.

## STRIVE for Five: Foden Road 5K



STRIVE hosted it's first ever 5K road race last month, which raised over \$10,000 for STRIVE programs! We would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all of our generous sponsors, volunteers, runners, walkers, staff, and neighborhood friends who made this event possible.

## Congratulations STRIVE Bayside: Opened September 21<sup>st</sup>!

We are excited to announce that STRIVE's newest program, STRIVE Bayside, started on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>! STRIVE Bayside is a two year program which runs from 9:00am-1:00pm Monday through Friday and will focus on developing independent living skills and creating community connections for young adults with developmental disabilities. Currently, the program has six participants and we spent the first two weeks of the program getting to know each other and also getting oriented with the resources we'll be utilizing in Portland over the next two years – the public bus, the grocery stores, the bank, the library, the YMCA and much more! We are currently accepting applications for two more participants. Please contact Brianna McCabe at [bmccabe@pslservices.org](mailto:bmccabe@pslservices.org) or (207) 899-1725 for more information or to schedule a tour! For more information, to schedule a tour of the apartment or for an application, please contact Brianna McCabe at (207) 899-1725 or [bmccabe@pslservices.org](mailto:bmccabe@pslservices.org). Call Today!



STRIVE Bayside students, Zach and Patrick, learning to ride the Portland Metro Bus!

## Next STEP Update: STRIVE's Transitional Education Program



Emily and Sophie enjoy lunch at the PSL Agency Picnic at Ft. Williams.

Next STEP (STRIVE's Transitional Education Program) is an unique private-pay program focused on education, recreation, and leisure. We are very excited at Next Step as we have a lot of new participants this fall and we are settling in and getting to know each other. We had a lot of fun over the summer and will continue to do so, however we also will get back to working on some areas to assist people as they transition into their adult lives. This month we will concentrate on getting to know each other and identifying life goals on an individual basis. We also have been working on time, time management, and money management skills. We are back volunteering at the Root Cellar and we are looking for another volunteer location for 4-5 people each week if anyone has any ideas. Kristine and Rory have some great ideas for the months ahead and we look forward to working with participants in the program.

**If you have any questions about Next Step you can contact Bill Hughes at 774-6278.**



# Get Involved!

## Thank You to September STRIVE Supporters

<b>Michael and Janet Collins</b>	<b>Patricia Pinto</b>
<b>Robert Junkins</b>	<b>Heather Gregoire</b>
<b>Silicon Valley Community Foundation</b>	<b>Robbie Lipsman</b>
<b>Intermed</b>	<b>Matt Purinton</b>
<b>Hannaford</b>	<b>Julie F. Fournier</b>
<b>Kathy and Laura Son</b>	<b>Steven Baia</b>
<b>Larry and Cynthia Vaughan</b>	<b>Amy Arno</b>
<b>Keith Johnson</b>	<b>Charlene McHale</b>
<b>Kendra A Gurcan</b>	<b>Lynn Alexander</b>
<b>Susannah Romano</b>	<b>Linda Falkenberg</b>
<b>Glenn Johnson</b>	<b>Lucas Houk</b>
<b>Joel Bassett</b>	<b>Teresa Jones</b>
	<b>Anita T Hampton</b>
	<b>Peter Brown</b>

## 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)



## STRIVE Fundraiser: Margarita's Mexican Restaurant Full Moon Madness!



Margaritas Mexican Restaurant at 11 Brown Street in Portland is generously hosting a fundraiser for STRIVE. Come join the party on Monday October 29<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday November 28<sup>th</sup>! 5% of all gross lounge sales will be donated to **STRIVE**. Enjoy the specials all night and win different prizes which will include t-shirts, gift certificates, entertainment passes, and a grand prize! We can't wait to see you for some full moon fun at Tio Juan's Margaritas Mexican Restaurant!

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

**Michael Faust**  
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**MaryAnn Schwanda**  
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**Themed STRIVE Night:**  
**October 26th**  
**6:00-9:00PM**

## HALLOWEEN

Get ready for a night of spooky fun and games!  
 Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes!

**STRIVE Night is guaranteed to be the best HALLOWEEN Party in Maine!**

### Member Spotlight:

**Patrick Obery**

**How old are you:** 21  
**Favorite movie:** Happy Feet  
**Favorite color:** Blue  
**Favorite holiday:** Christmas  
**Coollest activity at STRIVE this year:** Yarmouth Clam Festival  
**What actor would you choose to star in your life story:** Elijah Woods  
**Favorite song:** Simple Man by Charlie Daniels Band  
**Dream job:** working at a golf course  
**Talents:** Basketball, High-Fives, and Dancing

## October Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the Following STRIVE Members!

Teddy Prosack	Tammy Delano
Ben Blaisdell	Jake Hair
Derrick Justin Charette	Michael Jacobs
Zach Brix	Samantha Kelewae
Austin Dufour	Chris Salley
Scott Lizotte	Alex Clark
Danielle Colello	Pamela Sands
Kelly Bruey	David Egan
Nathaniel Sayward	Ralph Hynes
Wilson Waite-Austin	Ben Rubinstein
Erik Santiago	Gary Rubenstein
Thomas Woodman	Craig Chadbourne
Stacey Bruns	Dan Willette
Brian Clark	Jonathon Sarapas
Robert Crowe	Rachael Fairbrother
Haley Bourgoin	Cory Quattrucci
Russell Tracy	Heather Mitchell
Lacey Leighton	Nathaniel Small

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

**Save the Date: 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**

## 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 scholarships available. See you on Friday!

**October Schedule:**

October 5<sup>th</sup>: Halloween Bingo

October 12<sup>th</sup>: UNUM Halloween Activities

October 19<sup>th</sup>: Scavenger Hunt

October 26<sup>th</sup>: Halloween Theme Party– Wear your costume!

#### 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@psslservices.org](mailto:solejar@psslservices.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@psslservices.org](mailto:solejar@psslservices.org)

#### October Meetings & Events

**Halloween STRIVE Theme Night:**

October 26<sup>th</sup>

6:00-9:00pm

**Member Advisory Board Meeting**

October 5th and 19th

5:00pm

**Kiwanis Aktion Club**

October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>

3:30pm

**STRIVE's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Live & Silent Auction**

October 10<sup>th</sup>

Ocean Gateway, Portland

**Tio Juan's Margaritas Mexican Restaurant Full Moon**

**Madness STRIVE Fundraiser**

Monday October 29<sup>th</sup>

4:00pm– 11:00pm

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

### Extra Baskets laying around? STRIVE could use them!

Do you have extra gift baskets that are just taking up space in your house? Not sure what to do with them! Well, STRIVE is looking for baskets for an upcoming event—if you would like to donate them please drop them off before October 5<sup>th</sup>! Thank you!



# STRIVE Pictures



Above: STRIVE for FIVE: Foden Road 5K runners and walkers take off at the start line!

Above: STRIVE friends Eric and Lewanne celebrate a great race at the STRIVE for FIVE: Foden Road 5K finish

Below: Emily working hard on price comparison at Next Step.



Above: Next Step enjoyed cooking grilled cheese and tomato soup together for a group lunch !



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

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

### Visit our website:

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**THANK YOU!**

## **STRIVE FOR 5 FODEN ROAD 5K**

Communities are stronger when everyone is involved.

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2012, 8 a.m.**

### **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all runners, walkers,  
sponsors, and neighborhood friends  
who came out to support STRIVE!



STRIVE is grateful for all of  
our sponsors, runners,  
walkers, volunteers and  
neighborhood Block Party  
crews for a successful,  
inaugural STRIVE for Five:  
**Foden Road 5k!**  
Communities are stronger  
when everyone is involved.