



www.pslstrive.org

# STRIVE Newsletter

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2014

Join us for STRIVE's 10th Annual Auction on November 5th

### 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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**CELEBRATING MAINE**  
From COAST To COUNTY  
"The Way Life Should Be"

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual LIVE & SILENT AUCTION**  
Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
6 pm at Ocean Gateway  
"Celebrating Maine," to benefit STRIVE

Tickets are on sale now for STRIVE's 10th Annual Live and Silent Auction!

November 5th, 6pm  
Ocean Gateway,  
Commercial St, Portland

Tickets are \$25 in advance,  
\$30 at the door.

This year, we are celebrating Maine from Coast to County! Join us for great items and delicious food representing all areas of the great state of Maine.

We'll have new twists to our auction this year, so don't miss out!

All proceeds directly benefit STRIVE Programs!

*For more information, to purchase tickets, or donate an item, please contact Peter Brown at [pbrown@pslservices.org](mailto:pbrown@pslservices.org) or Katelynn Davis at [kdavis@pslservices.org](mailto:kdavis@pslservices.org) or call (207)774-6278.*

Thanks to our Sponsors of the 10th Annual Auction:

# STRIVE NEWS

## News from Next STEP

As fall has approached, Next STEP has welcomed many new participants. It's exciting that we have the most participants that our program has had since it began three years ago. For those who are unfamiliar with Next STEP, our program is a very unique private-pay program that offers educational, recreational, social and independent living skill development for its participants. We offer full and part time participation as well as early drop-off 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.

We not only learn a lot in Next STEP but we have fun, too! For curriculum in September, the group worked on self-advocacy skill development which included lessons in being able to speak up for our needs. We also did some "get to know you" activities as a means of everyone becoming familiar with each other as we start the fall. For October our focus will be to research, discuss and explore what it takes to set-up an apartment.



For leisure, community navigation and wellness the group has been busy as well. In early September the group supported Kevin, STRIVE's volunteer who spent over 115 hours on the roof of Jimmy the Greeks, by visiting him several times to cheer him on as well as selling raffle tickets at the Maine Mall to help to get him off the roof! Several members of our group became very proficient in marketing and sales as they promoted STRIVE! The group has also taken full advantage of the fine weather by taking walks in several different locations such as the new Clark's Pond Trail, Mackworth Island, Baxter Boulevard and more. We try to explore different locations in hopes of becoming familiar with them so participants will consider using the many great, free resources that Portland has to offer when they are not in the program.

We also welcome Katie Collins as our new Program Manager as Betsy Morrison begins to transition into the role of STRIVE Program Director. Katie has been with STRIVE for over 5 years, most recently as Program Coordinator at STRIVE U, and brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the program. Please contact Katie at 774-6278 or [kcollins@pslservices.org](mailto:kcollins@pslservices.org) with questions or if you would like to schedule a visit to Next STEP.

## Here's What's Going on at Bayside!

This month at Bayside, we have been discussing the importance of eating better and living a healthy lifestyle. In addition to learning about the sugar found in those beverages we typically enjoy, we also took many unhealthy snacks that we enjoy and find healthier ways to prepare them. Some of our snacks included mini zucchini pizzas, baked mozzarella sticks, and avocado fries. YUM!

We had our second graduation at Bayside early in September. Haley was one of our first participants in the Bayside program and is a great example of the growth that happens throughout the course of the program. Though it is hard to have someone leave our group, we are so excited for the future of our graduates. Each participant has worked so hard to gain more independent living skills and completing this program is a giant leap to being more independent.

STRIVE Bayside is a program for those hoping to learn independent living skills such as cooking, cleaning, navigating the community, budgeting and more. Though our group is growing, we still have space for more! We have one slot available in both the morning (9am to 1pm) and afternoon (1pm to 5pm) groups. For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Veerle Pottie at [vpottie@pslservices.org](mailto:vpottie@pslservices.org) or (207)774-6278.



## STRIVE U Update

The students have started the semester at Kaplan University and are full swing in the semester. Many are getting back into the balance of school, goals, and working while others are experiencing college courses for the very first time. Our students are exploring the community of Portland and what it has to offer with the changing of the seasons including the Farmer's Market, the art walk, and local sporting events. As we dive deeper into fall students will start gearing up towards more employment opportunities and preparation for our larger annual events like the progressive dinner.



Applications for the STRIVE U Class of 2017 are now available! Completed applications and all related paperwork are due by 4:00pm Friday, January 30, 2015. To request one, learn more about STRIVE U, or to tour the campus, please contact Erin Berg at 207-774-6278 or [eberg@psslservices.org](mailto:eberg@psslservices.org)

## Staffing Updates!

We have some very exciting news to share regarding some staffing changes. First, Heather Guglielmo has moved into the Next STEP Team Leader position, where she will be leading the Next STEP program on a daily basis. As Next STEP continues to grow rapidly (currently the most amount of participants ever) we are excited to have Heather's experience and leadership added to the Next STEP team. We are also pleased to announce that Katelynn Davis will be our new STRIVE Program Manager, overseeing STRIVE Programs, volunteers, and events. Katelynn brings a background of PR and Marketing, as well as direct supervision of the STRIVE Bayside program, and we are pleased to have her begin this new role. Finally, to fill Katelynn's position at STRIVE Bayside, we have asked Caroline Cole to assume the role of Program Leader being the lead staff person at STRIVE Bayside. We have also moved the Bayside program under the umbrella of Veerle Pottie, our Community Services Manager. We are all very excited about these changes and think that you will be too! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pete Brown or Betsy Morrison.

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

**Michael Faust**

PSL Services Executive Director  
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**Peter Brown**

STRIVE Program Director  
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**Betsy Morrison**

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**Katelynn Davis**

STRIVE Program Manager  
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**Elizabeth McKernan**

STRIVE Special Projects Coordinator  
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**Caroline Cole**

STRIVE Bayside Program Leader  
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**Katie Collins**

STRIVE U/Next STEP Program Manager  
[kcollins@psslservices.org](mailto:kcollins@psslservices.org)

**Bill Hughes**

STRIVE/STRIVE U Programs  
[bhughes@psslservices.org](mailto:bhughes@psslservices.org)

**Katie Church**

Student Life Coordinator  
[kchurch@psslservices.org](mailto:kchurch@psslservices.org)

**Sarah Thurston**

STRIVE U Transition Coordinator  
[sthurston@psslservices.org](mailto:sthurston@psslservices.org)

**Erin Berg**

STRIVE U Admissions Coordinator  
[eberg@psslservices.org](mailto:eberg@psslservices.org)

**Kelly Taylor**

STRIVE U Education and Training Coordinator  
[ktaylor@psslservices.org](mailto:ktaylor@psslservices.org)

**MaryAnn Schwanda**

STRIVE U Employment Coordinator  
[mschwanda@psslservices.org](mailto:mschwanda@psslservices.org)

*We welcome your comments, questions, and feedback at [info@psslstrive.org](mailto:info@psslstrive.org).*



October Theme Night: Halloween Bash!

Join STRIVE from 6-9pm on Friday, October 31st for our biggest theme night of the year! Decorations, food, costume contest, games, and more!

Prizes will be awarded for funniest, scariest, and best costumes!

FMI: Contact Katelynn at [kdavis@pslservices.org](mailto:kdavis@pslservices.org)

## Wednesday Night Educational Classes

### Introduction to Computers

October 1st to October 29th  
Wednesdays  
6:00—8:00pm



Do your computer skills need some tuning? Learn about Microsoft, searching the web, social media, and more!

### Upcoming Classes:

**November 12<sup>th</sup>-November 19<sup>th</sup>:  
Public Safety**

*Speakers from the local police department will talk about being aware in public, internet safety, and more.*

**November 26<sup>th</sup>-December 17<sup>th</sup>:  
Money Management**

*This series will give students the opportunity to learn about money, checking and savings accounts, and balancing checkbooks.*

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

## October Birthdays

Basie Fisher  
Erik Santiago  
Matthew Archer  
Chris Salley  
Adrien Rice  
Christian Butler  
Nathaniel Small  
Christina Wotton  
Angie Tourigny  
Derrick Justin Charette  
Forrest Lizotte  
Austin Dufour  
Kayla Campbell  
Danielle Colello  
Kayla Labonte  
Ella Dixon Meyers  
Teddy Prosack  
Thomas Woodman

Jacob Roberts  
Russell Tracy  
Iseyik Harper  
Jake Hair  
Ben Schklair  
Samantha Kelewae  
Pamela Sands  
Brendon Kellogg



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 is \$10 - Bring a friend and we will see you on Friday!

**October 3rd—Spark’s Ark**

**October 10th— UNUM**

**October 17th— Zumba!**

**October 24th— TBD**

**October 31st– Halloween Bash and Costume Party!**

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

Thank you to our September Donors!

**Robert Sellin/Natalie West**  
**TRUIST**

\*\*A Special Thanks to all of those who donated to  
 “Get Kevin off the Roof” and  
 Jimmy the Greeks for hosting us!

Attention Families and Students:

Did you know that PSL Services/STRIVE provides community case management to over 265 transitioning students and adults living in Sagadahoc, York, and Cumberland counties? To be eligible for this program, individuals must be 18 years or older and must be found eligible through DHHS, Office of Aging and Disability Services.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our services and ways to collaborate in educating families and students about the transition process and programs that are available to them. If you would like to set up a meet and greet information session with the members of our team, please contact Alli Vercoe, Director of Case Management at (207) 879-0847 x221 or by email at avercoe@pslservices.org

Upcoming Meetings & Events

**Aktion Club Meeting**

October 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th  
 3:30pm

**Member Advisory Board Meeting**

October 3rd, 17th, and 31st  
 5:30pm

**Wednesday Night Education Classes**

October 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th  
 6:00—8:00pm

**STRIVE 10th Annual Auction**

November 5th  
 6pm– Ocean Gateway  
 Commercial Street, Portland

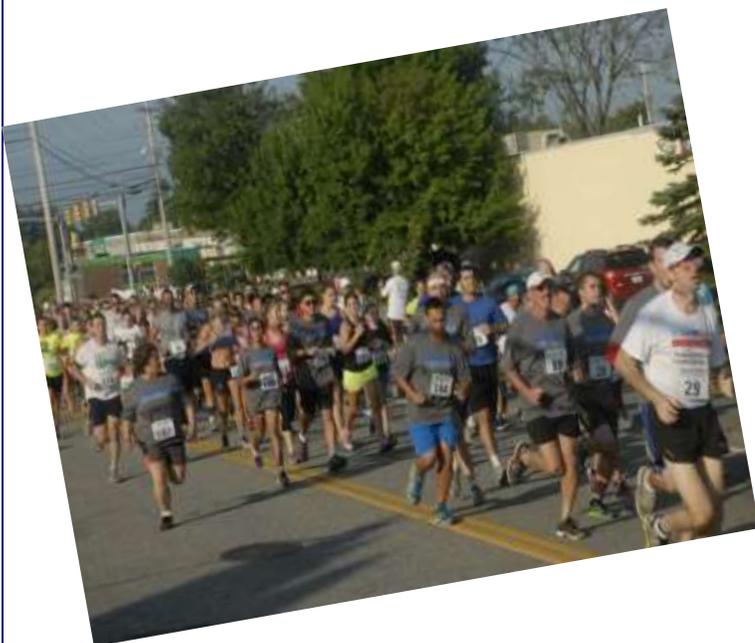
**Tweens:**

Every Friday, 3:30-5:30pm  
 11-14 year olds

**STRIVE Night:**

Every Friday, 6:00-9:00pm  
 15-24 year olds

### 3rd Annual STRIVE for 5-Foden Road 5k and Block Party a Huge Success!



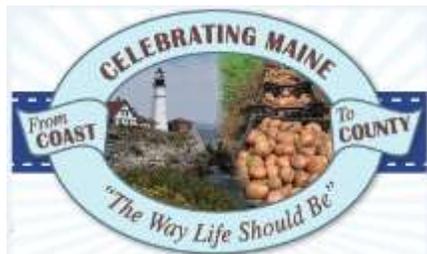
On Saturday, September 6th, STRIVE, in conjunction with the Foden Road Neighborhood Networking Group, held a very successful 5K run/walk and block party! This year's event was our most successful yet, with 248 runners and walkers participating, and many more enjoying the block party. Some highlights from the 3rd annual event include that our race is now U.S. Track and Field Certified for the serious runners, but always open and welcoming to those looking to run for fun, and, of course, walk for STRIVE!

This year's block party had over 25 booths staffed by local businesses and organizations. Together with our "Kevin on the Roof" promotional event, the 5K raised approximately \$25,000 for STRIVE Programs!

A big thank you to everyone involved—we'll see you next September!



### Want to get involved?



Volunteers are needed for our upcoming Live & Silent Auction!

**When:** November 5th, 2014 from 6 to 9pm

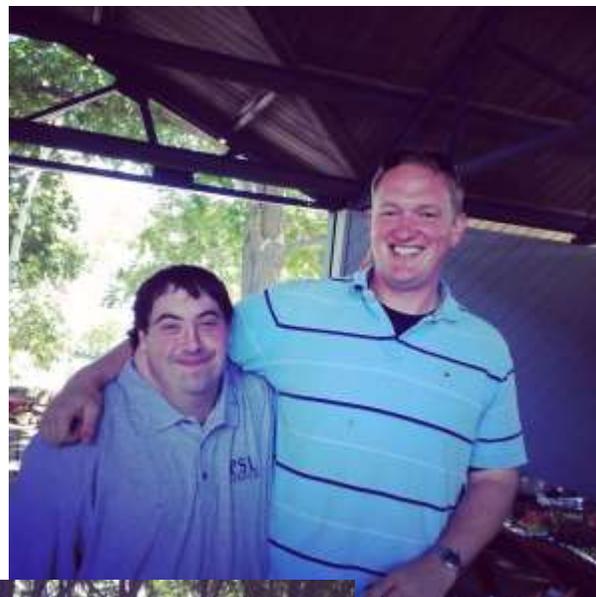
**Where:** Ocean Gateway, Portland, Maine

We are looking for volunteers to help with:

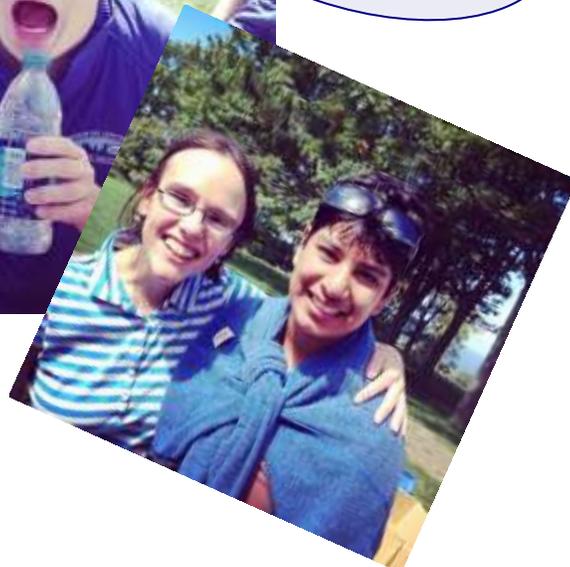
Set Up, Registration, Table Attendant, Check Out, Runner and more!

For more information: Contact Pete Brown at [pbrown@pslservices.org](mailto:pbrown@pslservices.org) or Katelynn Davis at [kdavis@pslservices.org](mailto:kdavis@pslservices.org) or call (207)774-6278

# STRIVE Pictures



Fun at the Employee Appreciation Picnic at Fort Williams Park!



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](mailto:info@pslstrive.org)!



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

[www.facebook.com/strivenation](http://www.facebook.com/strivenation)

Twitter: @pslstrive

Instagram: [strive\\_psl](#)

Pinterest: STRIVEPSL

Find us online!: [www.pslstrive.org](http://www.pslstrive.org)

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Mark your  
calendars!



Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 will be our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. This event will be held at the Italian Heritage Center in Portland, starting at 6pm. We'll have music, dancing, a great meal, and lots of laughs and memories about the first 15 years of STRIVE- and we'll look ahead towards the next 15 and talk about what the future holds for our organization. We are currently putting together a host committee, and will be mailing more information later this fall.

Stay tuned for more details—or contact Pete Brown at [pbrown@pslservices.org](mailto:pbrown@pslservices.org) to get involved in the planning!

