



www.pslstrive.org

# STRIVE Newsletter

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2016

## STRIVE's 12th Annual Silent and Live Auction!



*When: Wednesday, October 26th, 6pm*

*Where: Holiday Inn by the Bay*

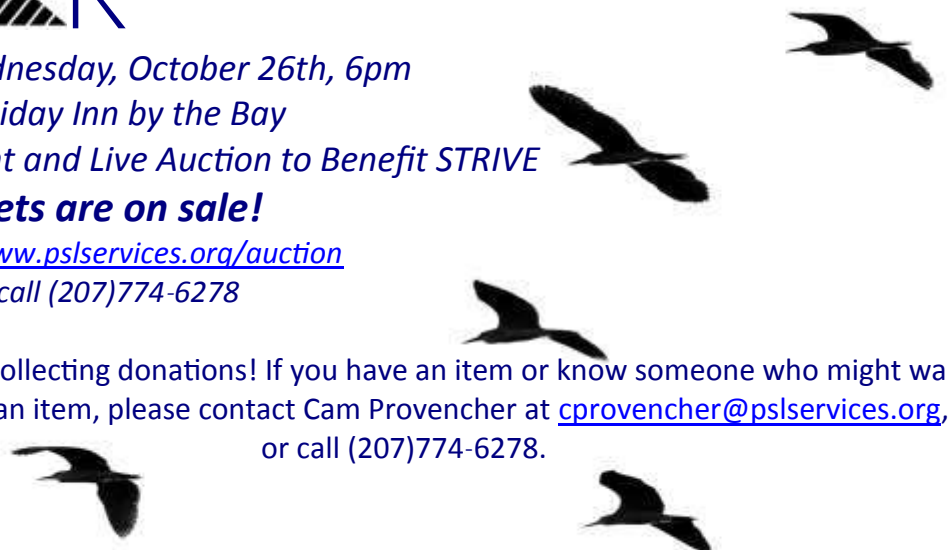
*What: Silent and Live Auction to Benefit STRIVE*

**Tickets are on sale!**

[www.pslservices.org/auction](http://www.pslservices.org/auction)

or call (207)774-6278

We are still collecting donations! If you have an item or know someone who might want to donate an item, please contact Cam Provencher at [cprovencher@pslservices.org](mailto:cprovencher@pslservices.org), or call (207)774-6278.



**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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## Kevin on the Roof Recap

*Fundraising Goal: \$30,000*

***Fundraised Total: \$32,819***

*Total Time on Roof: 7 Days, 2 Hours*

Kevin did it! 7 days and 2 hours is exactly what it took for Kevin to raise over \$30,000 for STRIVE. We are extremely proud of his accomplishment. We can't thank our sponsors, Kevin, members, staff, and especially our donors enough! Everyone had a major role in making Kevin on the Roof a success. The countdown is on until Kevin on the Roof 2017!

***Thank You Kevin and to All Our Sponsors!***



# STRIVE NEWS

## “Fall”ing into Place at STRIVE U

STRIVE U is continuing to be a busy environment of learning and fun as we head into the fall season. Our students have finished up their summer workshops and are back in their regular Kaplan classes. Students are working on job and community safety skills in their two classes. The first year students are getting more and more independent on traveling each week, and both first and second year students have been practicing different bus routes to help become more familiar with the city. Our staff recently got to have a great training with a nutritionist and hope that we will be able to carry what we learned into helping our student create healthy, balanced menu plans.



Social events have been a blast! Students and alumni enjoyed a night out to eat at Five Guys and last week they got to tie-dye tee shirts. This has been a wonderful way for current students and alumni to get to know each other and broaden their circle of friends. As fall approaches they have more fun plans ahead. Additionally, many students have also been taking advantage of YMCA memberships to add more recreation and exercise into their lives. We can't wait to see what is in store for us this upcoming month and look forward to sharing it with you next time.

**STRIVE U applications for the Class of 2019 are now available!** The deadline for applying for admission for June 2017 is February 1, 2017. STRIVE U is a comprehensive two-year residential, post-secondary educational opportunity. To learn more about the program, schedule a tour or get an application, please contact Bill Hughes, STRIVE U Admissions Coordinator at [bhughes@pslservices.org](mailto:bhughes@pslservices.org) or call (207) 774-6278. There will also be an Open House on October 2nd from 10am –2pm, details on page 6.

## TOPS Spotlight

School has officially begun for our second year and TOPS is buzzing with students again! September is a time of transition for all of our students as they get into the school routine again. This month we want to highlight a student who attends STRIVE for both TOPS and our After School Program, Peter T. Peter is a new TOPS student from Cape Elizabeth High School, beginning his time this summer during our Extended School Year Program (ESY). Peter has settled into his routine and always comes in with a smile on his face. STRIVE is lucky to have him as a participant in both programs! Thank you, Peter, for all of your hard work so far. We are excited to see where this year leads you!

If you would like to see what TOPS is up to every week and read a little more about TOPS, please email Kelly Frey to be added to the Weekly TOPS Newsletter, [kfrey@pslservices.org](mailto:kfrey@pslservices.org). STRIVE TOPS serves students from school districts in the Greater Portland Area who are in their 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> year of school. If you have questions or would like more information about TOPS, please contact Betsy Morrison at 207-774-6278 or [bmorrison@pslservices.org](mailto:bmorrison@pslservices.org).



## Reaping a Harvest with Next STEP

In the month of October, Next STEP started volunteering at a new place, helping senior citizens at 75 State Street in Portland with different kinds of art projects. Next STEP is also learning how to use the metro system and exploring different new places. We will be taking the bus all over Portland, going to parks, libraries, and even different places to shop.

For this past month our curriculum has been “getting to know you” which has been great because we have several new Next STEppers joining our program! We started off with a fun game, where we threw the ball to each other and asked that person a question, then passed the ball to the person we wanted to ask the question to next. Next STEppers have learned a lot of different things about their peers. Additionally, we are continuing to nurture our community garden with Kaplan. Next STEP has picked some fresh basil, tomatoes, zucchini, and green beans! It has been so fun to reap our harvest! Next STEP enjoyed some fun new recipes with the fresh vegetables from the garden. Next STEP has also started seeing our watermelon grow. Soon we will be eating some fresh watermelon, if the ground hog doesn’t eat it first!

Next STEP is a great option offering quality curriculum for those who are on a waiting list for other services, in combination with other services, or for those who may not qualify for other services. Please contact Betsy Morrison at (207)774-6278 or [bmorrison@pslservices.org](mailto:bmorrison@pslservices.org) if you would like more information regarding Next STEP or would like to schedule a tour. Part-time and full-time options are available.



## Celebrating Another Graduate at Bayside

This month, STRIVE Bayside celebrated the graduation of Devan L with a BBQ, a scary cake, lots of pictures, and a wonderful speech. September was staff appreciation week, and Bayside participated by going to the company wide picnic at Fort Williams. Congratulations to Devan, and thank you to Karen, Kim, Michael, and Caroline for their hard work and dedication to make STRIVE Bayside a fun place to learn.

STRIVE Bayside is a unique community supports program that is dedicated to exploring and increasing independence. We run five days a week, Monday through Friday and have two daily sessions, 9:00am-1:00pm and 1:00- 5:00pm. We operate out of an apartment in downtown Portland to simulate actual apartment living. We are currently accepting applications for both the morning and afternoon sessions. If you are interested in joining STRIVE Bayside, or would simply like more information, please contact: Caroline Cole at (207)899-1725 or [ccole@pslservices.org](mailto:ccole@pslservices.org).



*We are thrilled to be able to offer so many different programs here at STRIVE, but understand the options can be overwhelming and sometimes, confusing. Our staff is willing and ready help you navigate all of your options. If you'd like additional information, please feel free to give us a call at (207)774-6278—we'd love to help!*

## STRIVE Night October Theme Night: Halloween! September 16th, 6-9pm



Ages:  
15 to 24 years old

Cost: \$10  
with scholarships  
available

STRIVE Night is 6:00-9:00pm ages 15-24. STRIVE Night is a social program for teens, and young adults held at the STRIVE Center. STRIVE Night is a great place to get together, have fun and build relationships.

FMI: Contact Cameron at [cprovencher@pslservices.org](mailto:cprovencher@pslservices.org) or call (207)774-6278.

**\*\*Advisory Board's first meeting in October will be held on October 14th at 5:15pm.\*\***

## Wednesday Night Educational Classes

Our current series on Healthy Relationships is ending soon, but has received such popular demand that we'll surely offer it again !

Participants have been gaining the knowledge to make smart decisions when it comes to romantic relationships, with a special focus on what a healthy relationship looks like. Specialists from the community have been leading presentations and discussions with students and answering questions they may have about the topics. Thank you to our presenters: India Street, YAPP, and Speak About It.



## Upcoming Wednesday Night Class

### **Career Exploration**

October 5th, 12th, and 19th, 2016  
6:00-8:00pm

This series will answer the questions: What is my brand?, How do I get the job?, and How do I keep the job? We will be joined by our partners at Kaplan to answer these questions as we discover how to market ourselves and how to navigate relationships at work. This is a great course for those starting their first job searches or seeking jobs in the near future.

### **Money Management**

November 2nd, 9th, and 16th  
6:00-8:00pm

Saving, spending and everything in between. This class will teach you tools that will help you set and achieve money goals.

Wednesday Night Educational Classes are held with a different topic each month. For more information, or if you have an idea for a series or class topic, contact Michaila McCloskey [mccloskey@pslservices.org](mailto:mccloskey@pslservices.org); or (207)774-6278.

## October Birthdays

Sydney Pitts  
Iseyik Harper  
Brenden Bouchard  
Valerie Lorleberg  
Derrick Justin Charette  
Ben Schklair  
Derek Thelin  
Pamela Sands  
Christian Butler  
Austin Dufour  
Jake Hair  
Adrien Rice  
Hannah Hollis  
Brendon Kellogg  
Erik Santiago  
Jalen (Arthur) High  
Forrest Lizotte  
Kayla Labonte  
Russell Tracy  
Aaron Hornbeck-Fielder

Ted Prosack  
Thomas Woodman  
Jacob Roberts  
Matthew Archer  
Angie Tourigny  
Andy Tao  
Alice Stevens  
Kayla Campbell  
Angela (AJ) Bryant



TWEENS Schedule of Events	Upcoming Events
<p><i>Are you between the ages of 11 and 14? Are you looking to make new friends?</i></p> <p><i>Join us every Friday afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30pm at STRIVE!</i></p> <p><b>**Tweens is FREE to all members between the ages of 11 &amp; 14!**</b></p> <p><b>October 7th: Fall Cooking with Chef Brad!</b></p> <p><b>October 14th: Games with UNUM!</b></p> <p><b>October 21st: Knitting and Sewing with Pat!</b></p> <p><b>October 28th: HalloTWEENS!</b></p> <p>For more information, contact Michaila McCloskey at <a href="mailto:mmccloskey@pslservices.org">mmccloskey@pslservices.org</a> or call (207)774-6278.</p>	<p><b>Aktion Club</b> October 5th, 19th, 26th, 31st, 3:15pm</p> <p><b>Member Advisory Board Meeting</b> October 14th, 28th, 5:15pm</p> <p><b>Wednesday Night Education Classes:</b> <i>Career Exploration</i> Wednesdays, October 5th, 12th, 19th, 6:00-8:00pm</p> <p><b>Tweens</b> Every Friday, 3:30 - 5:30pm</p> <p><b>STRIVE Night</b> Every Friday, 6:00 - 9:00pm</p>

**Thank you to our October Donors!**

Edmund & Laynie Marzano	Charitable Foundation	Hugh Morgenbesser	Keene Plumbing & Heating	Michele Giroux	Samuel Sandberg	Tom and Tina Bourdeaux
Alan McHale	Charles Mercer	Jake Frederick	Kelly Butterfield	Nathan Bergeron	Sandra Couillard	Tracy Chute
Amanda Fitzpatrick	Charles O'Donnell Jr.	James Lashua	Kevin Fitzpatrick	Nichole Desrochers	Sandra Bean	UPS Auburn Cash
Amy Saffian	Chris Camera	Jane O'Conor	Kim Lee	Nicole Beaudette	Sara Brown	UPS Portland
Amy O'Connor	Christine Wallace	Jane Damon	Kimberly Mayhew	Nicole Beaudette	Scott Dobos	UPS Waterville
Amy Kotthaus	Chuck Whitlock	Janice Fuda	Kyle Griffin	Norma Farides	Scott & Janet Taylor	UPS Wells
Amy Little	Connie Gregoire	Jason Briggs	Lana Wescott	Joanne & Gary Elliott	Scott Waldron - A	Vanessa Feeney
Anita T Hampton	Constance Ortolani	Jayne Newland	Laura Shufelt	Pamela Price	Sean & Max Allen	William Leith
Anna & William Gallant	Cynthia & Scott Zwicker	Jean Fitzpatrick	Lauren Swett	Pamela & Robert Lamy	Shanna & Kevin Fitzpatrick	William Hughes
Aric Walton	Cynthia Keene	Jennifer Christensen	Laurie LePage	Patricia Beattie	Shari Chapman	William Souter
Ashley Doyle	Daniel & Lisa Randall	Jessica Benner	Lee Socquet Jr	Patricia Kenney	Shaun Avery	Yelena Agakhanova
Barbara Beebe	David Miller	Joanne Fitzpatrick	Lilly Fitzpatrick	Patriot Subaru	Shawn Giguere	
Barbara Brown	David Camara	John Brusio	Linda Wade	Patriot Subaru	Stephen Hayes	
Barbara Hopkins	Deanna J Proulx	John Opperman	Linda Halleran	Peter Brown	Susan Millett	
Barbara McDonald	Debra Riley	John Macisso	Lisa Magnacca	Phillip & Sherry Norton	Susan McHugh	
Baxter Bass	Debra Johnson	John & Lynda Wilson	Lisa Mahan	Ralph Good	Susan Aleschus	
Bethany Porter	Denine Leeman	John and Dee Fitzpatrick	Lisa Flynn	Ralph Stowell	Suzanne Johnson	
Bill Taplin & Emilee Taplin-Lacy	Donald MacWhinnie	Jordyn Cram	Lori Voornas	Ralph & Kathy Cabana	Suzanne Giardino	
Bob Bennett	Donna Czarnik	Joshua Remy	Lorraine Berry	Randall Luce	Tamera Vogel	
Bonnie Schommer	Ed Kennerly	Joshua Reny	Lynne Wiest	Richard Ziemba	Tami & Brent Hamilton	
Bonnie Berry	Edward Cornelius	Jovana Rakovic	M Lorraine Twombly	Richard Clement	Tanya Preston	
Brad & Betsy Morrison	Elaine Gervais	Judith Sarapas	M. Julianne Shea	Richardd Wheeler	Teamsters Local Union No 340	
Bradyj Leclerc	Elizabeth Watson	Kaplan	Margaret Cloutier	Rick ans Pam	Teamsters Local Union No. 340	
Bradyj Leclerc	Elizabeth Warnock	Karen Jannace	Mark Carey	McAvoy	Terry Nelson	
Breana Gersen	Elizabeth Mahoney	Karen Perry	Marsha OLeary	ROBERT	The Sinclair Family	
Brian Beattie	Eric Smith	Karen Johnson	Mary Perry	GARRETT	Thomas Nutter	
Cameron Rosenblum	Fred Fowler	Kate Griffin	Mary Ann	Robert & Robyn Farwell	Thomas Burns	
Carol Thomas	Gen & Deborah Reed	Katherine Collins	Constanzer	Roberta Mcsorley	Tia Pass	
Catherine Walker	Glenn Johnson	Katherine Garrard	Mary Ann Brown	Robin Simpson Scott	Tiffany Contois	
Cathleen Sullivan	Ground Round	Kathy Fitzpatrick	Matthew O'Neil	Rosemary Goranites	Timothy Agnew	
Cathy Campbell		Kathy Hamblen	Maureen Beck	Samantha Johnson	Tom Talbot	
		Kathy Fitzpatrick	Max Gerber			
		Katy Walsh	Melissa Guilbeault			
			Michaelc Simpson			
			Michaelg Michaud			

# STRIVE U Open House

## STRIVE U in Portland, Maine

STRIVE U provides post-secondary education and training to young adults with developmental disabilities.



STRIVE U Class of 2012  
*"I never imagined my daughter living in an apartment and taking a bus by herself. I did hope, yes, but before STRIVE U it was unrealistic."* – Parent

*"I wouldn't let myself think about these years (after high school) because there wasn't a lot of hope. Now the sky is the limit."* – Parent

*"People with disabilities deserve a chance."* – STRIVE U Graduate

*"STRIVE U provided our son with a unique opportunity to reach his goals of independence and being a member of his community."* – Parent

*"STRIVE U has helped me believe in myself and who I want to become."* STRIVE U Graduate

Please join us for our Open House!

**Sunday, October 2nd**

**10:00am-2:00pm**

**STRIVE U Campus**

**12 Nye Street, Portland, Maine**

STRIVE U is inclusive, comprehensive and groundbreaking. The program is designed to teach its students necessary skills to live independently in the community. STRIVE U is founded on four main program areas:

### Community Living

- Students enrolled at STRIVE U learn critical independent living skills in off-campus apartment buildings. These apartments serve as skills classrooms for independent living, training in money management, self-care, nutrition, health and wellness, and household management. Each student will have maximum independence and choices including the opportunity to learn from mistakes in a safe environment.

### Post-Secondary Education

- STRIVE U collaborates with Kaplan University Maine to provide an inclusive education opportunity for students. Kaplan provides an Advisor/Coordinator for STRIVE U students to help them identify personal and academic goals and how to meet their goals through collegiate academics. STRIVE U students have full access to campus life.

### Employment

- STRIVE U and its employment partners are committed to providing students with valuable, competitive work experience and the support needed to ensure successful professional experiences. Students will be given the opportunity to experience a wide variety of employment opportunities focusing on areas in which students express interests. STRIVE U also provides extensive job preparation and training to complement work experience.

### Transition

- The transition process will take place throughout the students two years at STRIVE U. This will begin with enrollment, and the creation of a written transition plan, including goals set by the individual. Students will graduate with two certificates of completion and an official transcript from Kaplan. STRIVE U will also assist graduates with housing, employment support, and further connection for their community.

Please contact Bill Hughes for more information at [bhughes@pslservices.org](mailto:bhughes@pslservices.org) or 207-774-6278.

<http://www.pslstrive.org/striveu>

# Exciting News/ Member Spotlight

## Welcome Stefanie

Stefanie Millette recently joined the STRIVE Management team, replacing interim Program Manager JP Deckert. She will report to Pete Brown, and looks forward to the next year meeting the partners, volunteers, staff, and families who make STRIVE's programs and events so successful.



Stefanie comes to STRIVE with nine years of Marketing, Leadership Development, and Fundraising in the retail, nonprofit and construction sectors here in Maine. Her relationship with STRIVE began when she coordinated facility logistics for STRIVE Rocks Dance Marathon 2012 and 2013 as the former Marketing Manager of The Maine Mall. She has a Master's Degree in Business Administration, and undergraduate degrees in Education, Public health and Communication.

Stefanie is an alum of Americorps and the Lift360 Emerging Leaders program. She volunteers as a Guardian Ad Litem through CASA of Maine, as a DAT Member for American Red Cross, and as an Advisory Council Member for Portland Arts and Technology HS's Marketing program. She is originally from Shrewsbury, MA and lives in Freeport.

## Member Spotlight

### *Harrison Snyder* *Member at STRIVE since 2010*

STRIVE has enjoyed Harrison for an incredible 6 years. Harrison has been coming STRIVE Night ever since he turned 16. His endless energy and smile light up the dance floor every week. All of us look forward to having him, and members always ask about him. Harrison is well liked by everyone and we always make sure he is enjoying himself at STRIVE Night!



to

"STRIVE has made a huge difference in Harrison's life. Harrison has been attending the Friday night dances for a long time. Going to the dance is the highlight of his week. He talks about STRIVE all week long and gets very excited when it's finally Friday. Harrison enjoys saying "Hi" and giving everyone high fives. has met some great friends through STRIVE." - Mary Valente (Harrison's BHP)

STRIVE would also like to recognize Mary Valente, who has been a part of Harrison's life for some time now. Her dedication to STRIVE doesn't go unnoticed. Mary has been coming to STRIVE Night just as long as Harrison has. Mary has also fundraised a tremendous amount for the Dance Marathon fundraiser STRIVE puts on every year. She has been a top 5 fundraiser for the last two years! We can't thank Mary enough for all she does for Harrison and STRIVE as an agency. Thank You!



He



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

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*We welcome your comments, questions, and feedback  
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