



www.pslstrive.org

# STRIVE Newsletter

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2012

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

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

*Gateway to Independence*

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! STRIVE auction committee members are collecting items and would love for you to donate. Does your business have season tickets to local sporting events, are you a crafter, or do you frequent an establishment that would be interesting in donating? 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)



**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 Bayside: A Team Centered Approach to Independent Living

STRIVE is excited to update you on the development of our newest program offering, STRIVE Bayside! This program, which uses Section 29 or can be privately paid for, is dedicated to expanding independent living capacity and community connections for people with developmental disabilities.

STRIVE Bayside is a two year program which starts on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012. We are accepting eight participants for 2012 and 8 participants each following year. STRIVE Bayside staff will work with participants from 9:00am-1:00pm Monday through Friday on goals such as personal safety at home and in the community, meal planning and preparation, nutrition, budgeting, time management, cleaning, laundry and much more! The goal of STRIVE Bayside is to work with you over a two year period to expand your abilities to live a more independent life.

This program will utilize the STRIVE U curriculum which has been used to assist young people with disabilities to live and work in their communities, and refined and improved over the past 10 years.

STRIVE Bayside's is located in a three bedroom apartment in Back Bay Tower in Portland. The apartment will serve as a great space to work on cooking, cleaning and other goals and also has easy access to great community resources such as the library, the gym, career center, bus lines, grocery stores, banks, parks and more. We are excited to help participants learn how to explore a community and be as independent as possible at home.

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 U NEWS

## STRIVE's U Class of 2014 Settles Into College Living

STRIVE U Welcomed the class of 2014 on June 24<sup>th</sup>! New students Alizah Brandwein, Erica Boivin, Hillary Lawrence, Elizabeth Gray, Mat Poland, Jamie Trites, and Lucas Houk have started classes at STRIVE U and are settling into life on campus.

Orientation week was filled with a lot of fun activities! The students toured USM, the METRO and Hannaford, and attended presentations from the police department and Eco Maine. The students also went on a trolley tour of the city, a Lucky Catch Lobster Cruise, and opened their bank accounts at Norway Savings. Now that they have been here for about a month, the students are navigating on their own and starting to explore the city with their peers.

Mat Poland said, "the most fun thing I've done since coming to STRIVE U was the trip to OO Beach." He also said "I'm excited to start classes at USM!" The USM semester starts up on September 4<sup>th</sup>. The First Year Students are going to be taking Intro to College and the Second Year students will be starting an Employment Unit.



A few members of the STRIVE U Class of 2014  
Fort Williams Park, Cape Elizabeth

## STRIVE U Employment



interviewing skills. STRIVE U is grateful to partners like Market Decisions who donate their time and resources to enhance our Employment Program with unique opportunities!

First year students are exploring their career interests while learning how to craft a winning resume, shine during an interview, and land a job with timely and engaging follow up. Brian Brinegar recently conducted mock interviews for students in Market Decision's sound-proof room complete with hidden cameras and audio. In addition to receiving critical practice, students will have the added bonus of getting to review their session recorded on DVD and discover how to improve their

A second year student was recently hired by Disability RMS, a leading disability risk management products and services company located in Westbrook, Maine. Several new employment partners are in the pipeline and will be announced in upcoming newsletters; however STRIVE U is always looking for dynamic companies interested in hiring capable, motivated and reliable individuals.

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 us today! To find out how to become a STRIVE U Employment Partner, please contact MaryAnn Schwanda, Employment Coordinator: [mschwanda@psslservices.org](mailto:mschwanda@psslservices.org) or call 207-774-6278.

# STRIVE NEWS

## STRIVE U Experience

2012 STRIVE U Experience Applications  
Are Now Available!

The weekend long seminar will be a snap shot of a typical week at STRIVE U and is being held September 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> at Camp Tall Pines in Poland. This is a great chance for students 17+ to learn more about STRIVE U!

The cost is \$285. Space is limited.

For more information contact  
Peter Brown at (207) 774-6278 or  
pbrown@psslservices.org.

## STRIVE U Open House

The STRIVE U Open House is set for Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>! Our campus is located on Nye Street in Portland. The event runs from 10am-2pm. Anyone who is interested in learning more about STRIVE U, the admissions process, and seeing the campus is welcome to stop by!

The current students will be giving tours and staff will be available for questions.

Applications for the Class of 2015 will also be available at that time. For more information, contact Peter Brown at (207) 774-6278 or pbrown@psslservices.org.

## 2012 Maine Marathon call for Volunteers



STRIVE is the beneficiary of the 2012 & 2013 Maine Marathon!  
*STRIVE is honored to have been chosen and excited for this year's race!*

### We need your help!

STRIVE prides itself on being a mutually beneficial partner and will be running a water stop during the race. This is a very crucial part of the event and we are in need of 25 volunteers to help to pass out water. There are also 25 opportunities to help with finish line clean up. The race will be held on September 30<sup>th</sup>!

If you are interested in volunteering with STRIVE at the Maine Marathon on September 30<sup>th</sup> please contact Kristina Smalley at ksmalley@psslservices.org or by calling the office at 207-774-6278

Thank you in advance for supporting STRIVE in this very special opportunity!

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

Next STEP (STRIVE's Transitional Education Program) is an unique private-pay program focused on education, recreation, and leisure. Next STEP consists of two daily components--Education and Recreational Development--and students will spend their time learning and growing at our Foden Road location and in the local community. Our primary goal is to assist people and their families who are on a wait list for services as well as those who are seeking an extended support during the day.

We continue to have a very active summer at Next STEP including going to the Sea Dogs, Pineland Farms, hikes, beach trips, and more. We also have done some great art work this summer and have been working on skills around filling out resumes. In the fall we will return to working on areas to assist people as they transition into independence including self advocacy, emotional and physical health, nutrition, money management, and other areas. We will continue with weekly activities in the arts, volunteering, physical activities, and getting out in the community.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about Next STEP please contact Bill Hughes at bhughes@psslservice.org or call the office at 207-774-6278

# Get Involved!

## Thank You to August STRIVE Supporters

Ameriprise Financial Annual Giving Campaign  
Karen Stephenson  
United Way of Coastal Fairfield County, CT  
Pepper Dining, Inc. (Dallas TX)  
Cynthia & Larry Vaughan  
United Way of  
Massachusetts Bay & Merrimack Valley, MA  
Jane Dipietro  
Laura Dismore  
Martha and James Mackay  
Allan McHale  
Emily and James Garvin  
Corin Swift and Rafael Adams  
John & Lisa Melanson  
Jubal and Jana Zimmerman  
Steve & Sharon Smalley  
Anthem Blue Cross in honor of Volunteer of the Month-  
Colleen Lynch  
Cynthia & Lawrence Vaughan

## 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



## Estate Planning & Special Needs Trust Presentation \* September 21<sup>st</sup>

STRIVE is proud to host a free informational night for parents and family members on Estate Planning and Special Needs Trusts! Join us September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm. Drop your son or daughter off at the STRIVE Night Social Event and join us in the conference room for this free session.

The session will be lead by Patricia Nelson-Reade from Nelson-Reade Law Office, P/C., and Peter Sellwood from Merrill Lynch. Peter is a valuable member of the STRIVE Steering Committee. For more information please contact us at  
info@pslstrive.org

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

### Michael Faust

PSL Services Executive Director  
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### Peter Brown

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### MaryAnn Schwanda

STRIVE U Employment Coordinator  
mschwanda@pslservices.org



**Themed STRIVE Night:**  
**September 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:00-9:00PM**


*Strive! dol*

*Calling all singers....  
 this is your time to shine!*

*STRIVE's most popular theme night of the year is STRIVE Idol! We hope you will join us and don't forget to bring the CD of the song you would like to sing!*

*Who will be this year's STRIVE Idol?*

**Member Spotlight:**



**Austin Pietras**

**How old are you:** 15  
**Favorite movie:** Avatar  
**Favorite color:** Blue


**Favorite holiday:** Christmas  
**Coollest thing you've done at STRIVE:**  
 Hiked Morse Mountain  
**If you could choose an actor to star in your life story, who would it be:** Chad Michael Murray  
**Favorite song:**  
 Joy To The World– Three Dog Night  
**Dream job:** Engineer  
**Something you're really good at:**  
 Problem Solving and Puzzle Games

**September Birthdays** 

Happy Birthday to the Following STRIVE Members!

Nick Babbidge  
 Timothy Dwyer  
 Jared Feiner  
 Derek Foss  
 Chase Gaston  
 Jason Gredlics  
 Liz Hatch  
 Ruby Hawk  
 Helen Johns  
 Ryan Keimach  
 Philip Mackey  
 Ian McKay  
 Sarah Michaud  
 Dianna Oliver  
 Nicholas Suttler  
 Brandon Young

**Thank you Camp STRIVE Counselors**



STRIVE would like to thank this summer's three amazing Camp STRIVE Counselors:  
 Jessica Harriman, Mia Dewaters & Jennifer Abdallah

We truly appreciate your kindness, and excitement for the camp program!  
 From all of us at STRIVE  
 ~Thank You!

## 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 5:30 at the STRIVE Center!

**September Schedule:**

September 7: UNE Touch Tanks  
September 14: UNUM Back to School Activities  
September 21: Big Screen Dance Moves  
September 28: STRIVE IDOL

#### Monday Night Wellness Class Series

**Personal Safety Series**

September 10<sup>th</sup>- October 29<sup>th</sup>  
Mondays from 5:30-7:00pm

A fun class to learn how to stay safe in many situations: emergencies, at home, the kitchen, and the community.

We will have special guests including police officers, firemen, American Red Cross and others to come in and share about how you can stay safe!

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

#### Wednesday Night Educational Class Series

**Household Responsibility Series**

September 5<sup>th</sup>- October 24<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00pm

Join us for a course all about the responsibilities you have at home! Learn about what to do with your free time, recreational activities, cooking, cleaning, paying bills, and more. This is a great class to learn more about how to be independent!

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

#### September Meetings & Events

**STRIVE IDOL Theme Night:**

Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>  
6:00-9:00pm

**Member Advisory Board Meeting**

Friday, September 7 and 21 at 5:00pm

**Kiwanis Aktion Club**

Wednesday, September 5 and 19

**STRIVE U Open House**

Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>  
10:00am—2:00pm

**STRIVE For 5 \* Foden Road 5K & Block Party**

September 15<sup>th</sup>  
Race starts at 8am. Free block party to follow!

**Estate Planning & Special Needs Trust Presentation**

September 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30pm

**STRIVE U Experience Weekend**

September 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>

**Maine Marathon— STRIVE is the Beneficiary**

September 30<sup>th</sup>

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

October 10<sup>th</sup>  
Ocean Gateway, Portland

#### 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 1<sup>st</sup>! Thank you!

# STRIVE Pictures



Thank you to Mattise who juggled for TWEENS!



Did you know that STRIVE hosted a Chicara Wrestling Show?



Welcome Shannon Olejar!  
STRIVE's new Special Projects Coordinator



Camp STRIVE having fun!





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

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

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

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

Has your address, phone or  
email changed?

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

**STRIVE for 5 Foden Road 5K Race/Walk & Block Party**

Join us for STRIVE’s First ever 5K! “STRIVE for Five” - Foden Road 5K Race/Walk & Block Party on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>! Race starts at 8:00am and is followed by a free block party for participants, friends and families. You don’t have to run in order to enjoy the block party! This is a great chance to see the newly renovated STRIVE space and get to know our great neighbors! Please see our website for the great list of family friendly events!

Registration for the race is now open and you can register online at [www.pslstrive.org](http://www.pslstrive.org), contact STRIVE at (207) 207-774-6278 or email [info@pslstrive.org](mailto:info@pslstrive.org).

**Thank You to our Neighbors & Event Sponsors:**

