

Dear Friends and Supporters,

STRIVE is thrilled to share the many ways we continue to grow and deepen our impact in communities across the country. Across our network, committed members of the STRIVE team are working to expand opportunity in some of the country's most at-risk communities. From new employment initiatives to close the skills gap and foster career mobility, to welcoming new network partners, we are excited to share our achievements with you.

Please read on, and as always, thank you for supporting STRIVE!

Jerry & Jessica Seinfeld, Michael Strahan Visit STRIVE to Engage with Dads

STRIVE graduates received a special visit in February from long-time supporters Jessica and Jerry Seinfeld of the [Good+ Foundation](#), as well as Good+ friends Michael Strahan, co-anchor of ABC's Good Morning America, and Shawn Pecas, of Roc Nation Sports.

The Good+ Foundation's [Engaging Fathers](#) initiative has been a leader in promoting the fatherhood movement across the country. The foundation is an instrumental partner, supporting STRIVE's fatherhood program in New York City, *Strong Fathers, Stronger Families*, which is operated in partnership with [Seedco](#) and with funding from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.



Photo by Genevieve Huba

STRIVE's Youth Employment Programs Expands Impact Nationally

Program leaders and youth trainers from four STRIVE Affiliates gathered in New York City in December to kick off the expansion of our *STRIVE Future Leaders* initiative, a new model developed by STRIVE in collaboration with the [Youth Development Institute](#) and [MDRC](#),

with funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. In 2017 STRIVE Affiliates will collectively serve more than 1,200 justice-involved youth through this program, which is funded through the U.S. Department of Labor. *STRIVE Future Leaders* will now be offered in ten cities across the country: Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Hartford, New Haven, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, San Diego, and Yonkers.



In January, STRIVE National and STRIVE San Diego (which is operated out of [Second Chance](#)) presented on this innovative youth employment model at the [California Workforce Association's](#) 2017 Youth@Work conference.

Innovating in the Field: STRIVE Lends Its Voice to National Conversations

As a leading national workforce organization with locations in 20 cities and growing, STRIVE is proud to actively participate in national conversations regarding closing the skills gap, tackling unemployment, and creating mobility and opportunity for all.



W.K. Kellogg MOVE UP Convening: October 2016

This national field-building includes:

- Hosting W.K. Kellogg Foundation's [MOVE UP](#) Convening, during which grantees came together to discuss career mobility in high-poverty communities.
- Holding a session of the Aspen Institute's ["Last Mile in Community Health" Ideas Incubator](#) at our national headquarters. STRIVE was featured as a "pioneering organization," and we had the opportunity to strategize about vital links between employment and public health with scholars and partners from around the world.
- Remaining regularly engaged with national workforce leaders in advocacy, field-building and policy-shaping through the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington DC.
- Participating in the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce Talent Pipeline Management Project](#), which aims to scale employer-nonprofit partnerships to create training programs that will close the skills gap and advance economic opportunity.

STRIVE Affiliate Spotlight: STRIVE Charleston

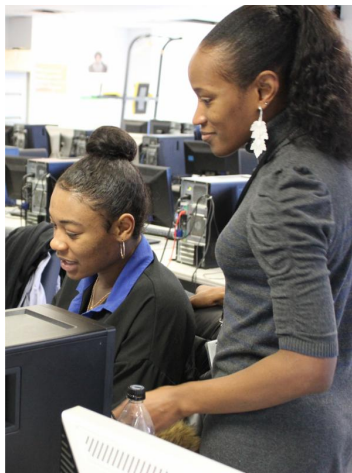
The newest member of the STRIVE Network, STRIVE Charleston, continues to change lives

in its community. Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg called the launch of STRIVE, which is an initiative of [The Step Up Network](#), "an exciting partnership for the City.. because it is a program that will increase hope."



STRIVE Charleston graduate Kendra embodies such sentiment. Unemployed when she came to the program, Kendra had five children to care for and needed the support that STRIVE's holistic approach offered. Today, Kendra is employed full time as a call associate at Call Experts.

JPMorgan Chase Invests in STRIVE Career Pathways



STRIVE NY facilitator and participant in training

STRIVE is grateful for our corporate partners and the leading role they play in advancing opportunity in some of the nation's most underserved communities. JPMorgan Chase has made significant investments over the last few years to strengthen underserved communities through workforce development programs. Through *New Skills at Work*, a \$250 million, 5-year initiative aimed at developing demand-driven skills training, JPMorgan Chase is creating greater economic opportunity around the world.

STRIVE New York is proud to be a grantee of such a forward-thinking funder. Through JPMorgan Chase's initiative, STRIVE is training underserved New Yorkers in healthcare and food & hospitality, two high-growth sectors in the city. Read more about this initiative [here](#).

Graduate Profile: Life-Changing Confidence Found at STRIVE New Haven

Chrystal came to STRIVE after being laid off from her job in Norwalk, Connecticut. She felt discouraged and defeated when job searching became difficult. She turned to STRIVE New Haven's job readiness and skills training program (operated out of [Career Resources, Inc.](#)). Although at first Chrystal says she was wary and intimidated, "something about the program made me want to keep coming back."

After completing the STRIVE training, Chrystal graduated and secured a job at her daughter's school. She says that the skills she gained at STRIVE prepared her for the interview, but more importantly, STRIVE helped her gain back her self-esteem. As Chrystal puts it, "STRIVE's training gave me the confidence I needed to get the job."



STRIVE International Welcomes Three New Members to its Board of Directors

STRIVE welcomed three new leaders to our Board of Directors in 2016: George W. Brooks

of Ernst & Young LLP, Tonia O'Connor of Univision, and Bonnie Howard, an independent board director.

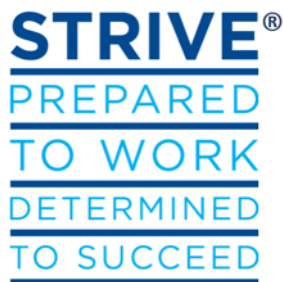
"We are thrilled to welcome George, Bonnie, and Tonia to the Board," said Phil Weinberg, President and CEO of STRIVE. "Their commitment, experience and expertise will be invaluable as we work to expand STRIVE's impact nationwide, helping more Americans gain the skills needed to obtain employment and break the cycle of poverty." To learn more about our new Board Members, check out our [press release](#).

Save the Date! Women's Empowerment Initiative Holds 5th Anniversary Luncheon, April 28, 2017

STRIVE's Women's Empowerment Initiative expands and strengthens the services we provide to at-risk women with high barriers to employment.



Now in its fifth year, the STRIVE Women's Empowerment Luncheon is an inspirational event that attracts over 300 executives from a broad spectrum of industries while honoring distinguished leaders who serve as important role models for women. [Click here for tickets and sponsorship information](#).



STRIVE needs your help to continue providing at-risk individuals with long-term professional and social services. With your generous support, we can continue to transform lives through employment and strengthen families and communities.

[**Donate Now!**](#)

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