



Dear Friends,

It has been an exciting start to the year. From launching our new **Serve UP Harlem** food service training program in January, to our sold-out **Women's Empowerment Luncheon** in April, STRIVE continues to support New Yorkers seeking to transform their lives through employment. Read on to see what STRIVE has been up to, and as always, thank you for your support!

300 Attend STRIVE's 5th Anniversary Women's Empowerment Luncheon



Elise Gyabeng, STRIVE Graduate

On April 28, STRIVE hosted its Women's Empowerment Luncheon to support low-income women in New York entering the workforce. This sold-out event was our most successful yet, raising funds to empower our female graduates as they create vibrant futures for themselves and their families. Graduate speaker Elise Gyabeng expressed her gratitude saying "**STRIVE gave me hope and the tools for success and the belief that I could achieve anything. Each one of you is making it possible for another STRIVE graduate to achieve her career goals.**"

Photos from the event are available on [Dropbox](#) and [Facebook](#).

STRIVE Participants Honor Larry Jackson with Community Service

STRIVE and the community are deeply saddened by the loss of Larry Jackson, our Senior Director of Career Services and a founding member of the STRIVE team. "**Larry was a truly special person who was beloved by our graduates, staff, community partners and employers alike,**" said Phil Weinberg, President & CEO of STRIVE. "**His contributions to STRIVE and to the workforce field will be enduring.**"

STRIVE graduates and participants are honoring Larry and his dedication to those living in East Harlem with community service on June 7 and 17. Participants will distribute meals and care packages (which include necessities like socks and toiletries) to those in need. To support their efforts, please donate new socks and/or toiletries at STRIVE's reception desk, contact Clarence Jackson at cjackson@striveinternational.org to volunteer, or [click to donate](#).



STRIVE and Starbucks Partner on 2nd Annual Youth Resource Fair



Starbucks volunteers wait with those lined up to interview for barista positions

On April 15, STRIVE and [Starbucks](#) partnered to hold the second annual Coffee and Careers Youth Resource Fair, a day aimed at supporting young adults as they seek employment. This year's event was incredibly successful, with nearly 200 youth aged 18-24 in attendance. Starbucks volunteers hosted workshops on topics such as customer service, professional etiquette, and the job search process. Participants also had the opportunity to interview for positions with local companies, including Starbucks.

Coffee and Careers comes on the heels of STRIVE's new food service and hospitality training program launch. With support from the [Citi Foundation's Youth Opportunity Fund](#), Serve UP Harlem helps youth looking for careers in New York City's burgeoning restaurant and hospitality industry. Since January, 5 cohorts of youth have graduated from the two week course.

STRIVE Dads and Daughters Bond with Combs & Cones

STRIVE Dads got a crash course in the latest styles at Combs & Cones, an afternoon of hair care and ice cream for participants of STRIVE's Fatherhood program. Fathers learned to detangle and style hair without fuss or tears while daughters selected accessories to match their new do's. **"A positive father-daughter relationship can have a huge impact on a young girl's life,"** says Derek Silvers, Coordinator of the Fatherhood program at STRIVE. **"When fathers become involved in their daughters' lives in a positive, fun way, they become role models, and their daughters grow up with better self-esteem, self-image, and confidence."**

Special thanks to [Good+ Foundation](#) and [Fairy Tales Hair Care](#) for supporting the event, and to [Seedco](#) for their ongoing support of the Fatherhood program.



Mental Health Services Help Participants Thrive

With mental health services difficult to access in low income communities, STRIVE's Mental Health Services Team works diligently to ensure all participants are supported as they transition into the workforce. **"STRIVE places a high value on mental health access,"** says Lakythia Ferby, Vice President of Programs. **"Helping someone succeed on the job is not just about getting them a certificate. We are working hard to overcome the stigma of seeking help, teaching them stress coping techniques and making sure they are**



From left: Liz Abdo, Robert Sanchez, & Rachel Rampil

supported as they begin their careers." The team consists of social worker Liz Abdo and social work intern Rachel Rampil from Union Settlement, and Connections to Care Program Manager Robert Sanchez, as well as the [Silberman School of Social Work](#) team at Hunter College, who has been providing training in non-clinical support techniques to all STRIVE staff.

It has been just over a year since STRIVE was chosen as one of only 15 community-based organizations to participate in the [Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City's innovative Connections to Care program](#), which aims to increase access to mental health services in low-income communities.

STRIVE Expands Financial Inclusion Training with New Partnerships

Through a great partnership with [Neighborhood Trust Financial Partners](#), STRIVE has taken an active approach to ensuring our clients have the tools and knowledge they need to succeed financially long-term. Since establishing Financial Literacy as a component of our Advancement workshops and our CORE Job Readiness course, over 350 participants are now equipped to open savings accounts, reduce debt, strengthen credit, and plan for their long-term financial security.

STRIVE was also thrilled to augment the training this year through a new partnership with Santander Bank. Santander volunteers have already held two exciting workshops on identity theft prevention for participants and staff, and we are working with their team to expand into additional programs.



Santander volunteers with some STRIVE participants

JPMorgan Chase Spotlights STRIVE's Healthcare Career Pathway

JPMorgan Chase shined a light on STRIVE's healthcare career pathway initiative at an April forum entitled "Job Training and the Future of Healthcare." A forum panel featured Mount Sinai Health System and its successful partnership with STRIVE to create innovative new training and talent pipelines that lead to career mobility. One of these pathways is STRIVE's W.K. Kellogg

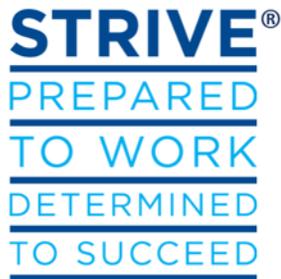
Foundation-funded MOVE UP advancement program, which provides advanced skills training to incumbent workers, leading to certifications needed for higher-wage employment. [Read more here.](#)



Valerie Orellana, Vice President of Human Resources, Mount Sinai Health System, speaking at JPMorgan Chase's event

STRIVE In The News

- STRIVE's East Harlem Talent Network highlighted as an exemplary program by [NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer](#)
- STRIVE graduate Roy Castro builds a business [worth \\$6 million](#) (Crain's New York)
- STRIVE applauds Mayor de Blasio's plan to [expand re-entry services](#)



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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