Dear Friends,

2017 has been a period of continued growth and impact for STRIVE and our network of 20 affiliate partners nation-wide. From a new, 6-city initiative to help individuals earn a second chance following incarceration, to newly-launched partnerships in Waterbury, CT, New Rochelle, NY, and Atlanta, GA, STRIVE is harnessing the power of employment to create economic opportunity and mobility for individuals and their families in cities across the country.

Read on to learn more! As always, thank you for your partnership and support.

Neil deGrasse Tyson Wins Celebrity Family Feud and $25,000 for STRIVE

On July 16 Neil deGrasse Tyson and his family took on Rick Fox on Celebrity Family Feud winning $25,000 for STRIVE! Click here to access the full episode on ABC.

Neil deGrasse Tyson is an Astrophysicist, the Host of StarTalk, and Director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History. STRIVE is grateful for his and his family's support.

The newly-released 2016 STRIVE Annual Report highlights STRIVE's determination to restore the promise of the American Dream for all. Now more than ever, STRIVE programs are providing the critical training and support needed to transform the lives of individuals, families, and communities.

In 20 US locations from New York to San Diego, STRIVE helped more than 2,200 individuals break the cycle of poverty in 2016.

Click here to access the full 2016 Annual Report.

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**STRIVE Wins Grant from U.S. Dept. of Labor to Launch New Program Helping Adults Leaving Incarceration**

STRIVE’s impact on men and women leaving incarceration will grow immensely over the next year thanks to a new $4.5 million grant from the [U.S. Dept. of Labor’s Reentry Project](https://www.dol.gov/esa/reentry/). STRIVE was one of only four Intermediary Organizations chosen nationwide to serve adults aged 25 and over leaving incarceration.

With prison costs on the rise, reentry programs that provide pathways to meaningful, living wage employment are vital to today’s economy. STRIVE will launch a new program, STRIVE Fresh Start, in 6 U.S. STRIVE cities (Atlanta, GA, Greenville, NC, New Orleans, LA, Philadelphia, PA, San Diego, CA, and Waterbury, CT), incorporating evidence-based interventions such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, legal services, and transitional jobs into our proven employment model.

STRIVE Fresh Start also builds upon deep reentry experience in STRIVE cities across the country, like STRIVE San Diego’s Youthful Offender Rehabilitation Program at the East Mesa and Kearny Mesa Youthful Offender Units and STRIVE New York’s pre-release training and support services on Riker’s Island, both of which place individuals nearing release on a positive path in work and in life.

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**STRIVE Atlanta merges with The Center for Working Families, Inc.**

After seven years of collaboration and partnership, two leading Atlanta workforce organizations merged in April 2017. New Hope Enterprises, which had housed STRIVE Atlanta, has combined with The Center for Working Families.
"We strongly believe that as one organization, we strengthen our position as Atlanta's thought and practice leader in workforce development, and become the go-to for those with employment barriers and challenges in underserved communities," said Ché Watkins, President & CEO.

"STRIVE is excited to expand our partnership in Atlanta with such a strong and committed organization," said Phil Weinberg, President & CEO of STRIVE. "The Center for Working Families is a critical partner as we expand our impact in empowering individuals across the country."

**STRIVE Future Leaders Give Back to Their Communities**

In 10 STRIVE cities, youth will give back to their communities on August 25 as a part of the first STRIVE Future Leaders National Day of Service. "Enhancing our model with service learning that incorporates career exploration is vitally important because it engages youth with their communities in a positive way," says Greg Wise, STRIVE's National Vice President. "At the same time, they are learning and engaging in skill building and exploring new career pathways, putting them on a positive track in their personal and professional futures."

Past service projects that youth have partaken in as a part of the program include volunteering at a Sports Health Clinic (at STRIVE San Diego, operated by Second Chance) and planting trees (at STRIVE Baltimore, operated by the Center for Urban Families).

STRIVE Future Leaders was developed in 2015 with support from the Youth Development Institute and MDRC, and with funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. It currently operates in 10 U.S. STRIVE cities, with support from the U.S. Dept. of Labor.

**STRIVE Welcomes National Fundraising VP, Sets Sights on Vision 2020 Expansion**

STRIVE is thrilled to announce the hiring of David Melendez as National Vice President, Development & Communications, following a national search by Koya Leadership Partners. Mr. Melendez is an accomplished fundraising leader who joins STRIVE having held senior positions at universities, foundations, and community-based organizations. Most recently, he served as the Vice President of Development & Marketing for the Union Rescue Mission in Los Angeles, the nation's largest private mission serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

"STRIVE is a pioneer nationally in helping individuals overcome poverty by developing the skills and behaviors that will help them succeed in work and in life," said Mr. Melendez. "I
am excited to help the outstanding organization fulfill its ambitious growth plans for the future."

Check out the press release [here](#) for more information.

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**STRIVE Programs Launch in Waterbury, CT and New Rochelle, NY**

STRIVE expanded its reach in Connecticut in March, with STRIVE Waterbury joining existing sites in Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven. STRIVE's Connecticut operations are overseen by [Career Resources Inc.](#), the state's leading nonprofit focused on workforce development.

Thanks to an innovative partnership between the City of New Rochelle, [Westhab](#), and STRIVE, a new "first source" job training and placement center also opened in May to serve New Rochelle, NY's unemployed. "Unlike the majority of local hiring initiatives, First Source's extensive program not only puts individuals in touch with potential employers, but offers the necessary certification and training to adequately prepare job seekers for job opportunities, creating not just jobs, but careers," said Ayanna Wayner, Deputy Commissioner of Economic Development for the City of New Rochelle. Read more about STRIVE New Rochelle (Operated by the First Source Referral Center) [here](#).

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**STRIVE In The News**

STRIVE was spotlighted in the news multiple times over the last few months. Here are some highlights:

- [Jerry Seinfeld, on Fatherhood](#) - New York Times
- [City Holds 14th STRIVE NOLA Graduation](#) - City of New Orleans Mayor's Office
- [NYC Nonprofit Partners with Cornell University to Help Close Unemployment Gap](#) - Cornell University Press Release
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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