Welcome to the October 2018 Newsletter of Strive.

What's Happening at Strive
October, 2018

Wendla Asplund, BSP
Crystal Childers, DSP
Michelle Coristine, DS
Alexis Fender, DSP
Agnes Holak, Voc
Tori Jordan, DSP
Tessa Lounsbury, DSP
Lacy Lowry, DSP
Stephanie McNutt, DSP
Sivanah Mickels, DSP
Layne Ready, Behavior
Kevin Tidwell, DSP
Diane Young, Case Mgr

Departmental Updates:
Vocational/Residential...
Submitted By: Valita Speedie

Vocational Botanical Gardens
The Pomrenke Children's Library is now complete! Come take a walk in the park!

The Pomrenke Park! With Bill Pomrenke's love for fishing as the inspiration, the children's library is simply a walk in the park.

Find yourself by the sensory pond and catch yourself a fish or a good book. Imitation books are used for children use their motor skills and "catch" a book!

A picnic table in the park gives you a spot to read a book or play the ice cream scoop matching games.

Children can insect game and touch and smell.

identify characteristics of an insect with the there are several sensory bins to capture sight,
We have a **variety** of **story tokens** for children to use in creating a **story** to tell by using the **picture** on the tokens. Items around the room are **labeled** with their name to assist children with recognizing the word that goes with the picture.

This library is **intended** to show kids that **learning** can be **fun** and, with a little imagination, they can do anything! The **Pomrenke Children’s Library** will be **available** to the **public** by **mid-October**, just look for the **Pomrenke Children’s Library sign**!

A very special thank you to 'Fresh Coat Painting Company' for their substantial paint donations used to complete this project!

And, of course, to the loved ones of Bill and Jan Pomrenke ... it has been through their passion and generous donations that this lovely learning place for children even exists, a heartfelt thank you!!

**Woodshop**
Woodshop has **started** their **Halloween skulls** and they are **going** like **hot cakes**! The **crew** takes the skulls and **chooses multiple color patterns** and then uses a **dipping method**. We take **special color orders** or you can purchase color designs created by the crew. The **skulls** are for **purchase** at **Uniquely Yours** and the group will be going to 950 to sell for you convenience!

**Creative Creations**
This group has gotten **Halloween spirit** and is **unique Halloween signs perfect** for decorating. **Special orders** can be **5544**. You can also **find** going to **Uniquely Yours** at **wayyyyy** into the **creating festive** and **wall art**. These are your office and home. **made** by **calling 970-244-5540** these **product** and more by 443 Main Street.

**Mobile Crews**
As usual, these **crews** have been **busy** with the warm **season** and have spent over **83** hours for the month **maintaining** and **enhancing** not only our Strive **properties** but providing this **quality service** to our **community customers**! **Fall** season is around the corner so get on the **schedule** soon for **leaf removal** before slots are filled. To schedule your property for fall clean up please **call 970-244-5540**!
Performing Arts
This group is moving in a forward direction on their Romeo and Juliet play. They will be performing the ballroom scene. The biggest struggle right now is remembering the lines but everyone is working hard on it. By the middle of October, all the props will be finished for this play. We have also been working on using hand/eye coordination on creating more detailed objects. We are also working on small looms and attempting to crochet.

Healthy Body Healthy Mind
This group will be planting some lovely wild flowers to cover a portion of the land they have adopted at the Botanical Gardens. As the weather cools in the month of October, we are planning on extending our shorter hikes to all day hikes. Everyone in this group is really enjoying all that Mother Nature has provided and they want to take full advantage of living in Colorful Colorado.

Coffee Klatch
With the hot month of September behind us, everyone in this group is looking forward to October as we focus on making party treats for a Halloween Party. The goal of learning proper knife techniques and responsibilities continues and, although everyone has come a long way with proper knife responsibilities. We have not yet had anyone graduate to the next level in our cooking class. It continues to be blast doing Grey Gourmet!

We are having a Harvest Party on the 29th, which everyone has been looking forward to. We are projecting that the Mini Golf Course will be finished by the end of October (weather permitting). This has been one of the biggest tasks that SLS has undertaken and it is great to see it come together. Many thanks to Peggy Gordon and the Woodshop for the helping us out! It is great how we all come together to help each other!

Wellness
Things are really pulling together in Wellness. During the past month individuals have worked on a finger painting project with paper cut out fish. Staff and individuals celebrated Classical Music Week with a classical dance party and a musical movie day. Congratulations to Vanessa Mireless as the new lead staff at 508!.

Active Wellness
Staff are working on team building exercises and are starting to paint and design the new space. They completed an outing to the Art Center. We celebrated the start to Fall with a fishing game activity and painting.

Labor Solutions
Successfully made their move over to the Teller Building. This offers more job experiences and an expanded workspace for the individuals in Labor Solutions. With the expanded space available, individuals are now able to select the work areas they feel will allow them to focus and perform their best work.
**Public Relations & Development...**
**Submitted By: Doug Sorter**

**Marketing/PR:**
- We have a variety of **news releases** on the air at this time.
- Radio is running **testimonials** from STRiVE staff and DSP’s about what a wonderful place it is to work on 8 different stations throughout the day.
- TV spots are running **weekly** on the new building needs, services at STRiVE and “Rollin on the River”.
- Print ads have been **placed** in both the *Daily Sentinel* and the *Business Times* for the capital campaign.

**Events:**
- **National DSP week proclamations** were presented to STRiVE from both the Grand Junction City Council and the Mesa County Commissioners. In attendance, as speakers, were Cynthia Ellis and James Wright. Both did a remarkable job at addressing the groups and explaining the **great things DSPs do** on a daily basis.
- **MBC Grand radio** did a **live remote** this month from our current building for 3 hours. Inviting the **general public** to come and see why we are moving. This was another chance to be **broadcasting** to 8 different stations for the 3 hours. Many different **members** from the STRiVE community we interviewed, Kayla from Case Management, Michelle from host homes, Robert from the Foundation Board and Wes a supported individual along with several others. All of them were so clear on their **commitment** to STRiVE, the need for a new facility and the people we support.
- We conducted a **contractor appreciation** lunch for the **owners** and their **employees** at 790 Wellington, the new building. They were **very thankful**, we had the **opportunity** to **educate** them about STRiVE and how they could get **involved**. As always, several of the attendees later approached me with **success stories** that they have experienced from STRiVE.
- Attended for the first time the **Rural Philanthropy Days** in Cortez, Colorado. I was on a **panel discussion** for how to effectively follow the grant process. I was able to **meet** with and talk to many of the **larger foundations** who attended from the front range. It was beneficial in several ways, but most importantly, it prepared me for when this event takes place in our area next year.

- **Rollin on the River 3K** is **Saturday October 13th** 10:00am to 1:00pm, kids under 12 are free. **Fun for the entire family!**
- We have a **Framing the Future** fundraising benefit scheduled for **October 18th**, contact Amber Hodges for details. ahodges@strivecolorado.org

**Grants:**
- The governing board voted to **support ballot issue 1A**. This issue, if passed, **will allow non-profits to apply for state grants**, not compete with grants the county would solicit and **remove them from the TABOR cap calculation**. I have more info on this and would be happy to answer any questions.
- We are working with many of the **front range foundations** and built solid relationships with them. We are in the process of conducting **site visits** with a few, which has already been a **successful** process.
- As we work with the different foundation on our capital needs, we have been pleasantly **surprised** by those that have not found a fit with the building, but
have become very interested in our programs. Not only have they become interested, they have allowed us to make grant requests and they have funded those requests.

- We have an excellent grants team and Capital Committee which is driving the process.

Presentations:

- Our Framing the Future campaign has sparked interest in our community. This is a good thing because it has given me an opportunity to present our plans to our community’s service clubs. It’s great because they are calling me requesting a presentation. Kiwanis, Grand Junction Rotary, Grand Junction Lions Club, Junior Service League, Sunrise Rotary and others. If you know of others who need a speaker for 5 to 55 minutes, please let me know and I will contact them.

Early Intervention...

Submitted by: Nancy Ketchum

Early Intervention:

EI is currently serving 150 children. Even though we are short providers the entire EI Team is doing their best to fill the gap. Our provider’s currently have very heavy schedules, and have to juggle appointments to accommodate everyone, but they are doing the best they can to meet the needs of the families we serve.

We continue to try and hire an Occupational Therapist and a Developmental Interventionist. Unfortunately, inquiries have been low and competition for similar positions in Mesa County is high. We are now offering Telehealth to our families for Occupational Therapy. Although not appropriate for every family, it appears ideal for some. There may be more flexibility on scheduling as well as it requires active participation by the family.

Success Story:

Meagan Duncan our Speech Language Pathologist Assistant (SLPA) is currently working with a child who has limited words to communicate with his family. His mom wishes she could hold a conversation with him that she could understand. Meagan, with input from Mary Johnson SLP, has given the family several strategies that are helping him to communicate more appropriately. The Z-vibe, oral-motor, fine-motor exercises, artic cards, 100 words list, etc, are helping him to develop his receptive vocabulary and expressive vocabularies. Strategies are also working to improve his oral tone for more accurate articulation. He is now combining 2 and 3 words to form longer utterances and he is becoming more intelligible. The family and providers were very excited recently when this child was able to clearly and proudly pronounce his name!

MDS Resource Coordination...

Submitted by: Kayla Purdy

- The next People First will be a Halloween party on 10/29/2018 from 5:00-6:30 at the Arc. There will also be a voter registration station there as well.
- We have two new case managers joining our team! Ashley Merino, graduated from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Ashley comes from Gateway Residential Services where she provides direct care and therapeutic living for at-risk teenage girls as well as being their point of contact. Ashley feels
like the most **important part** of employment is the **opportunity to serve the community**, and is very **passionate about it**! **Diane Young** has a bachelors in **Applied Psych/Human Services**. She has over **12 years’ experience** in the field, **ranging from children to the elderly**. She has done Case Management in previous positions. Diane’s hobbies and interests include **hiking** and **riding** on the **motorcycle** with her husband. She likes to travel and she also has 3 dogs and 2 cats! A fun fact about Diane is that she loves Young Living Essential Oils! **She loves helping people and it’s a passion of hers!** She also has 5 adorable grandsons!

- Our intake teams keep working hard on enrollments! We have had **two successful enrollments** onto the DD-Comprehensive Waiver, **one successful enrollment** onto the CES waiver, and **one successful enrollment** onto the SLS Waiver. Keep up the good work team!

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**Monthly Placement Summary:**

*Submitted by: Samantha Knight*

**Vocational RFP’s**

Nine new Vocational RFP’s were sent out by Case Management, seven were sent to all Service Providers in the area. Two new Vocational RFP was sent by Case Management only to Strive. Of the nine, five have chosen to tour Strive Vocational sites and are in the process of deciding if Strive is right for them. One has chosen another service provider. The three remaining are in process of being contacted by Strive Vocational Supervisors.

**Residential RFP’s**

Five Residential RFP’s were sent to all Service Providers in the area by Case Management. Two are exploring Strive and deciding if we are right for them. Two have not yet chosen a Service Provider and Strive is waiting for communication from each party. One has chosen another service provider.
### OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

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