



2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

STRIVE
How You Lead Matters



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A NOTE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear Strive Family,

As we wrap up 2024, I'm reminded of how much our world is looking for connection, joy, and growth. At Strive, this year has been about showing up for our young leaders and making sure our programs are more accessible and impactful than ever. We've been committed to creating spaces where young people can come as they are, develop their unique strengths, and feel supported in their leadership journeys.

Our focus this year was on deepening our impact. With our new "pay-what-you-can" model for Sports Challenge, we were able to decrease financial barriers associated with participating. Our new Middle School Clinic helped us bring the energy of Sports Challenge to a younger audience, while our new Coaches in Training program provided an early and rewarding employment opportunity for high schoolers. As our philosophy dictates, authentic leaders are driven by character; and this year the Strive Family demonstrated what incredible things can happen when we bring together a diverse community of leaders.

As we look to 2025, we're excited to keep building on this momentum. We'll be continuing our Middle School Clinic, Sports Challenge, and Coaches in Training programs and will introduce more recreational elements through the upcoming Strive Pathway to invite a broader range of participants. These efforts are made possible by our generous supporters, including new Champion Donor, Longwood Foundation, with a multi-year grant focused on strengthening our resilient team. We remain tremendously grateful to all those who have been part of this journey.

Throughout this review, I hope you'll enjoy hearing from the people who make up this great community – your support and energy make the difference, and we can't wait for what's next!



With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Caroline Letner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Caroline Letner
Executive Director

WHO WE ARE

MISSION

To spread the power of character-driven leadership

CORE VALUES



**KNOW
THYSELF**



**FILL
TANKS**



**BRUSH IT
OFF AND
GROW**



**FIND THE BEST
IN YOURSELF
SO YOU CAN
INSPIRE THE
BEST IN THOSE
AROUND YOU**



**CHOOSE
LAUGHTER**



**STICK
WITH IT**



**BE FAIR
AND HONEST**



Sports Challenge Class of 2024



OUR IMPACT

1,170
PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS



300
PROGRAM HOURS
IMPLEMENTED



75%
OF PROGRAMMING
WAS FREE OR
SUBSIDIZED



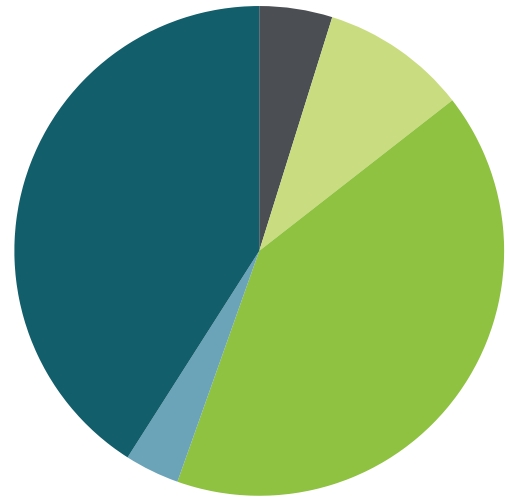
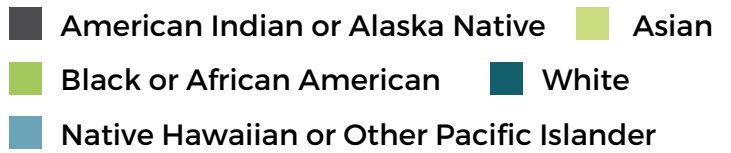
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SCHOOLS &
ORGANIZATIONS
PARTICIPATED IN
STRIVE PROGRAMS



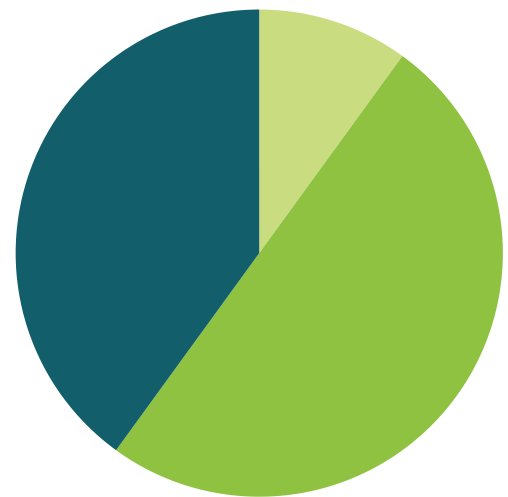
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NEW PROGRAMS
LAUNCHED



PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS



COACH DEMOGRAPHICS



Pie chart data from Sports Challenge and Clinic programs



PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

MIDDLE SCHOOL CLINIC

NEW!

This **one-day leadership clinic** brought together a diverse group of **middle school students** to practice basketball, soccer and lacrosse while exploring key social and emotional leadership skills. Participants spent the day focused on the leadership theme of **“take a risk”** encouraging participants to make new friends, try a new skill, and lean into the energy of Strive.

THANK YOU
TO OUR HOST:



At the Clinic I learned...

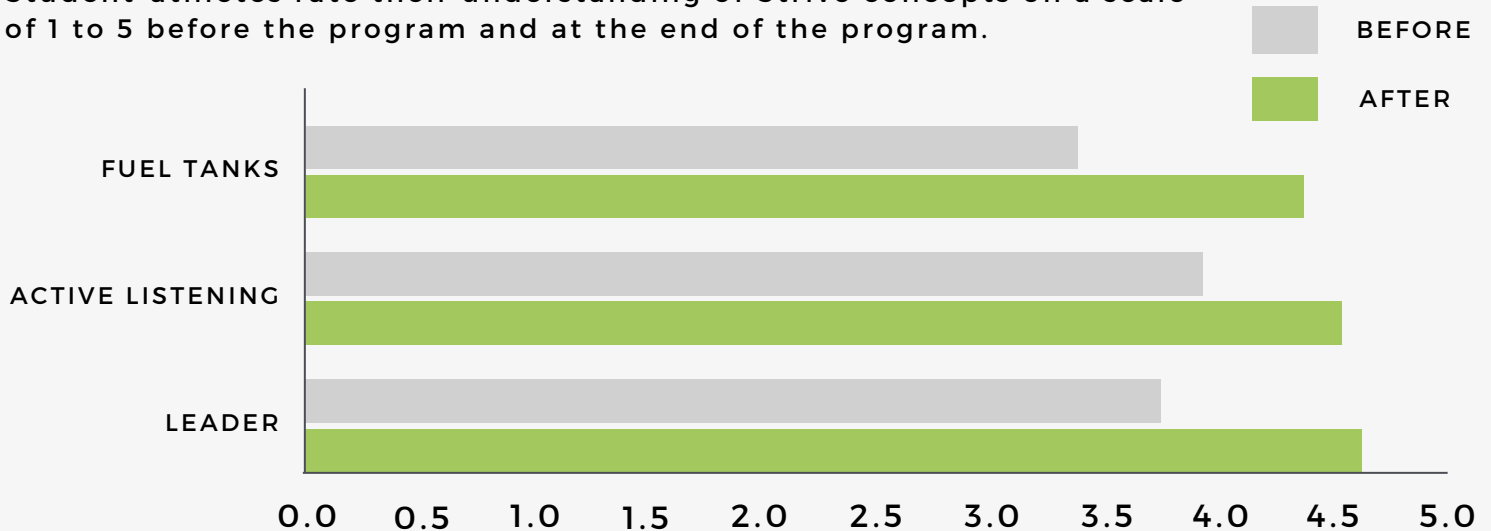
“how to be an active listener.”

“how to be a kind leader that encourages people”

“that there are many ways to be a leader.”

MIDDLE SCHOOL CLINIC 2024 SURVEY

Student-athletes rate their understanding of Strive concepts on a scale of 1 to 5 before the program and at the end of the program.



SPORTS CHALLENGE

Sports Challenge, Strive's foundational program, returned again in 2024 as a 5-day summer leadership academy welcoming basketball and soccer athletes to the highly demanding yet nurturing program.

This year we maintained a 1:5 coach-athlete ratio providing participants individualized mentorship as they discovered the character-driven leader within.

THANK YOU
TO OUR HOST:



SANFORD
SCHOOL

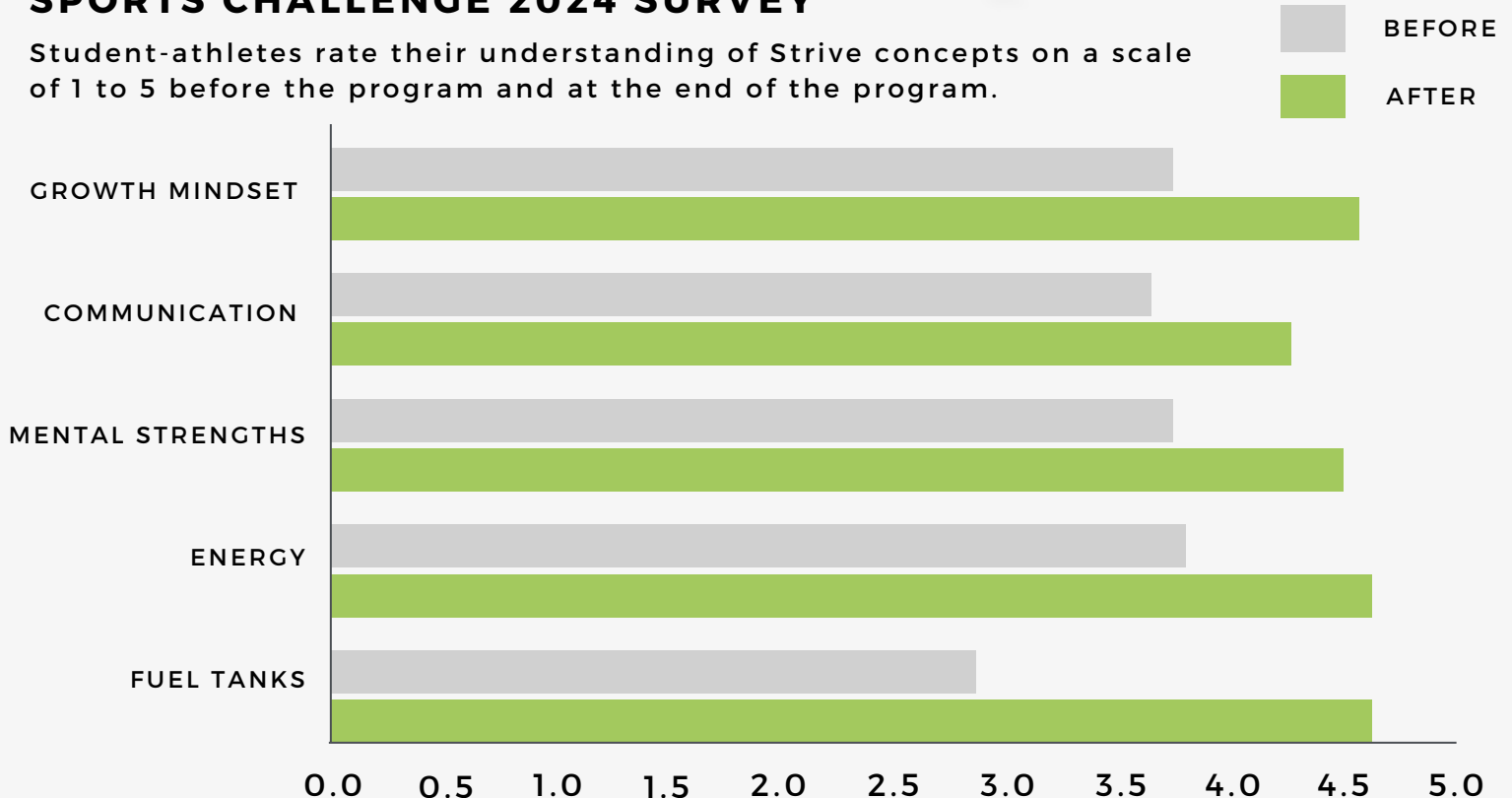
"I loved Sports Challenge because the community was great and everybody was cheering no matter the team."

"From Sports Challenge I learned how to communicate well."

"Sports Challenge helped us get close to people we didn't know."

SPORTS CHALLENGE 2024 SURVEY

Student-athletes rate their understanding of Strive concepts on a scale of 1 to 5 before the program and at the end of the program.



STAFF & COACH IN TRAINING PROGRAMS

NEW!

Coach and Staff Training has been a flagship program of Strive's work since launching our first National Coaches Leadership Institute in 2011. This training has a unique focus on culture building, providing experiential learning opportunities for coaches to develop team cultures that foster leadership at every level. Our Coaches in Training program was launched as an exciting new opportunity for **high schoolers** to attend **Strive Coaches Trainings** alongside Strive Coaches and gain experience coaching younger student-athletes at Strive's Middle School Clinic and/or Sports Challenge. Our inaugural cohorts of participants demonstrated the true potential of the young leaders we work with and we are excited to continue this program in 2025.



"I learned how to build connections with everyone and be more open and vulnerable to connect with others."

"I learned how to more effectively communicate ideas to groups of people. I also learned the fundamental roots of cultivating a productive and enjoyable culture."



HEAR FROM OUR COACHES

"I think more than anything (Strive) restored my faith that energy is contagious."



JULIANA MERULLO

"My time at Strive has been nothing short of amazing. I've had the opportunity to build life-changing connections, grow as a person, and make a meaningful difference in the community."



EMILY NAVARRETE

"I found a tribe here, a family, and it has allowed me to truly be myself."



OLIVER ELLISON

"FIND THE BEST IN YOURSELF TO INSPIRE THE BEST IN THOSE AROUND YOU."
- KEVIN MORGAN, STRIVE FOUNDER



DELAWARE PROGRAMMING

In 2024, Strive deepened our Delaware connections through year-round partnerships that brought our leadership programming to local schools and community hubs.

Nativity Prep

We've been working with their 7th and 8th grade boys weekly, implementing the Middle School Curriculum along with monthly House challenges for the entire school.

The Teen Warehouse Teen Executive Committee

We've partnered closely with them through bi-weekly check-ins, professional development sessions, and a teen-led Game Day with their entire RISE Cohort.

Sanford School

Sanford School has demonstrated the impact of sustained partnership, hosting Sports Challenge for two years running and now adding our upcoming Middle School Clinic. In addition, Sanford welcomed workshops focused on leadership and personal growth for their 9th-grade class and JV and Varsity Boys Basketball teams, championing our shared commitment to developing young leaders.

"I appreciate (Strive's) thoughtful approach to continuous improvement. You all are always on-time, prepared for our school community, and bring the energy! This new partnership has not only helped the boys in their competitive nature but it carries over into our academic program."

Altina Herbert, Principal at Nativity Preparatory School



NATIONAL PROGRAMMING

In 2024, Strive strengthened our national partnerships, bringing impactful leadership experiences to youth and student-athletes across the country. These partnerships have been essential in spreading Strive's mission of accessible and transformative leadership across diverse communities.

SafeHub

Our collaboration brought SafeHub's PlayMakers and other student-athletes to our Middle School Clinic and Sports Challenge, where they engaged in coach development and mentorship training.

Harlem Lacrosse - Philadelphia

We partnered with Harlem Lax, hosting a summer workshop with the Olney Elementary Boys Lacrosse team focused on positive energy—a partnership we look forward to expanding into year-round programming for middle schoolers.

Collegiate Athletic Conferences

Strive facilitated leadership workshops with student-athletes in the Atlantic East Conference and Old Dominion Athletic Conference.

“Through the Strive session I learned that the connection between all athletes (specifically in this room) is stronger than we think. We all are here with the same purpose.”

Member of Old Dominion Athletic Conference Student Athlete Advisory Committee



2024 PARTNERS LIST

Middle School & High Schools

Gateway Charter School
Nativity Preparatory School
Odyssey Charter School
Polytechnical High School
Sanford School
St. Paul's School
Tower Hill School

Colleges & Athletic Conferences

Atlantic East Conference
Haverford College
Old Dominion Athletic Conference

Community Based & Youth-Serving Organizations

Bear-Glasgow Family YMCA
Community Education Building
Delaware College Scholars
Greater Newark Boys & Girls Club
Harlem Lacrosse - Philadelphia
Latin American Community Center
Live Like Blaine Foundation
SafeHub
The Teen Warehouse

Professional Sports Programs

Baltimore Ravens LIFT Conference
Baltimore Ravens Player Engagement
Jr. NBA Court of Leaders



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THANK YOU

CHAMPION DONORS

Lon Charitable Fund
Longwood Foundation

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SPORTS CHALLENGE 2024 SPONSORS

Diamond: Bacchieri Family Foundation
Platinum: Barclays
Gold: M&T Charitable Foundation
Silver: ChristianaCare,
Diane & Thomas Arenberg,
Independence Wealth Services

STRIVE SLAM PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT & FUNDRAISER 2024 SPONSORS

Volley: Diane & Tom Arenberg,
Jon & Erin Debrich, Stacey Bacchieri
Lob: Valentine Consulting Group
Dink: The Pulsfort Family
Auction Item Donors: Bath House Holistic
Healing Studio, Gems by Jamie Hickey,
HiLo House, Indulgence Jewelers,
Kevin Morgan, Marina Toplyn,
Nolan Bacchieri, PhilanthropicFlora,
Sanctuary Wellness Studio,
Snuff Mill Restaurant, Vintner's Collective

Note: the above lists include donors as of 11/30/2024



LOOKING TOWARD 2025

We are committed to:

- Continuing our Middle School Clinic, Sports Challenge, and Coaches in Training programs through the upcoming Strive Pathway
- Nurturing our Delaware team and broader community through more in person events and recreational programming
- Launching Strive's 2025 - 2027 Strategic Plan

JOIN US

MIDDLE SCHOOL CLINIC:

February 17, 2025
at Sanford School in Hockessin, DE

SPORTS CHALLENGE:

June 23 - 27, 2025
Sanford School in Hockessin, DE

SAVE THE DATE:

June 27th
Sports Challenge Visitors Day!
Join us on the last day of Sports Challenge for our Final Ceremony.

Interested in learning more about leadership development opportunities for your team, school or organization?

Email us at admin@striveleadership.org.



*Join
US!*



GET INVOLVED



VISIT US ONLINE

WWW.STRIVELEADERSHIP.ORG



VISIT OUR OFFICE

STRIVE: HOW YOU LEAD MATTERS
1121 THATCHER STREET, SUITE C
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19802



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How You Lead Matters

1121 Thatcher Street, Suite C
Wilmington, Delaware 19802



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