SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Establishing, developing, and maintaining the scholarship fund is a key to Strive program success. A number of important decisions will have to be made by the committee.

DETERMINE...

...the number and amount of the scholarships to be awarded each year.

...the amount needed to subsidize the guaranteed work program at a minimum of $1.75 or more over minimum wage.

...identify and develop methods and sources of funding.

...the amount of reserve needed beyond the annual scholarships.

...the amount needed for administration and expenses related to the fund.

...who will administer and be accountable for the fund.

...procedures for incorporating and registering the fund for non-profit status.

FUNDING SOURCES

1. Your Rotary Club and budget
2. Other community service clubs
3. Individuals in the community
4. Local businesses and organizations
5. Area foundations
6. Fund raising activities and events

Developing regular funding sources is crucial to meet the annual needs of the scholarship fund.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS

One of the primary ways to insure the excellence and the success of the ***Strive*** program is to affirm and support the students who make a commitment to the program. It is important for the Strive Committee to work with the key school leader for the program to develop these incentives and recognitions.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Letter to all students who commit to the program from the strive committee and the school leader or principal.

2. Monthly or bi-monthly meetings for Strive students before school for 20 minutes. Rotary can provide a roll and juice. The school leader and a committee representative should attend to touch base with the students and encourage student progress.

3. Publicize Strive students where and when appropriate during the school year.

4. Recognize Strive scholarship winners at regular school honors programs.

5. Hold an annual Strive banquet modeled after other honor banquets with parents invited. Provide school and/or Rotary award certificates to all students who demonstrate improvement in class standing.

6. Publicize Strive winners along with all other school award winners in the local newspaper.

The Strive Committee should work with the school to give as much emphasis and recognition to Strive students and winners as other award programs.

GETTING STARTED

Strive can become an effective service project for your Rotary Club and can make a difference in the lives of the youth of your community.

HERE'S HOW

To start Strive, you can establish a Strive Committee under your Vocational Service or your Community Service areas. The key is to find two or three club members who have a vision and commitment for a program like Strive. Next, expand your committee by going to your local school district or high school and sell the concept and program to some key people. Usually, you can find someone who is looking for a way to make a difference for those youth who are the target audience of the Strive program.

Also find a couple community business or civic leaders who also have high interest in finding ways to increase the school community partnership in education.

Now you are ready to plan your approach to Strive which will fit the needs and goals of your school and community.

START SMALL - THINK BIG!

Most Strive programs start with one school and with scholarship goals which are attainable for the club and school. You can build one year at a time and expand from the initial school, depending on the size of the district.

We wish you the best. If you would like a speaker or personal presentation about Strive, please call the resource number indicated in the materials.

STRIVE
AN EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Strive is a motivational program targeted to high school seniors who want to improve their present grades. The Strive program has a proven track record of helping students, the school, and the community. Together, Rotary, community businesses and organizations, and your local school can make a difference in the lives of one of the most valuable resources in the community.

Students in the lower one-third of the class often have the same natural abilities and gifts as those who are in the upper two-thirds of the class. The difference is often motivation, attendance, work habits, self-esteem and success in the classroom. Strive is one way to address all of these factors.

Strive is a program that can begin small and be expanded as the success and promotion of the program grows. The program can be administered, supervised, and mentored through the efforts of a few enthused individuals from Rotary, the community, and the school who form the Strive Committee.

HOW STRIVE WORKS

Strive is a scholarship program which recognizes and rewards students from the lower one-third of the senior class who show the most improvement in their class standing. The nature of the scholarships and the amounts can be determined by the Strive Committee.

The original program began by providing the following:

- One fully paid scholarship (tuition and books) for one year at the local community college
- Two cash scholarships of $250 each
- Ten summer work opportunity scholarships at a guaranteed hourly rate, usually $1.75 higher than minimum wage

The winners of the Scholarships are determined by the net increase in their GPA from the end of the junior year to their final high school GPA. All students who show improvement in their GPA are given certificates of recognition. The GPA accounting is done by the high school.

STRIVE BEGINS IN FALL

As students return in the fall the school promotes the program to all students in the lower one-third of the senior class with general and personal invitations to consider the program. (Announcements about Strive should also be made in the summer newsletters to parents and students.) A meeting of all interested students could be held with a representative of the Strive Committee joining the school leader/advocate in encouraging the students to sign up. Strive covenants are distributed and time lines for response are established.

Covenants are verified with a letter to the Strive students and their parents congratulating them on their commitment to the program. An orientation meeting with all Strive students to review the criteria and check points of the program should be held. It is also important to hold a fall open house for the parents of these students to encourage parental support and involvement. (This is optional.)

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Strive Committee will need to establish a scholarship fund under the most beneficial legal status in the state. In the original program, a non-profit Strive Scholarship Corporation was established under the state statutes for such a non-profit fund.

Money was raised through specific fund raising activities, such as a bike-a-thon and walk-a-thon, and individual and corporate contributions.

The scholarship fund provided the one year scholarship directly to the community college upon proof of enrollment and satisfactory progress as agreed to by the student. Additionally, cash scholarships to the school of choice were given upon enrollment. Also, the fund subsidized hourly wages as needed for summer jobs that were secured with participation of local city, county, and business employers. These job scholarships were awarded to students with further educational plans.

BENEFITS OF STRIVE

Strive is a proven way to make a difference (four years of proven success) in the performance of students. School leaders and teachers pointed to notable improvement in increased self-esteem, confidence, and motivation. Many students discovered that when they attended class and worked a little harder they had success in the classroom. Many also made the decision to go on to college.

Statistically, 75-80% of those who made the commitment to Strive criteria improved their GPA. These students had a 91% attendance average. They knew that the school and the community were pulling with them and for them!

MONITORING OF STUDENT PROGRESS

The following procedures are helpful in monitoring the progress and providing the on-going support for the students throughout the year.

1. Monthly before school meetings for encouragement and support. These meetings are held 15 to 20 minutes before class. Rotarian(s) cover the three basics: a) Attendance (Show up!), b) Develop a good attitude, and c) Positive work habits.

2. Individual contact with students who are not showing improvement. This is done by the school administration.

3. Affirmation of those students who are showing improvement. Invite the students to a Rotary breakfast or lunch and applaud their improvement.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS AND RECOGNITIONS

Student Scholarship winners are selected on the basis of GPA improvement. These students and all others with improved GPA standing need to be included in all student recognition ceremonies. It is also important to have a parent-student banquet similar to the honor students' banquet to add further affirmation to their accomplishments.

The STRIVE Story

An interview with Strive founder, Don Mooney

Interviewer: **How did Strive get started?**

Don Mooney: I was the Vocational Service Director of our Rotary Club and had the opportunity to speak with kids and work with the schools through the Junior Achievement program. My work with that program was enjoyable and worked so well that I returned regularly to speak to the economics class about my experience in small business. I came into contact with many kids with potential who were having very little success in school or in their lives in general. I began to ask myself what we could do to help these students.

I: **What led to the idea of Strive?**

DM: I remembered that I was in a situation in high school similar to many of these kids. In high school, I didn't always live at home, I had little supervision, and little motivation toward school. My life was troubled and chaotic. But, I did have a good job. I was a box boy at a local market. From that experience, I learned what it takes to make a business work. Soon I was a journeyman grocer. Slowly, I realized that just by going to school regularly, instead of skipping classes, my grades went from D's and F's to B's and C's. I went to college later in life and did well. I want these kids to know now what I learned later.

I: **So you decided to focus on the lower third in class standing?**

DM: Students in the lower third need to hear this message. They need to hear from people who understand their situation and can challenge them. I began to go to school and tell students three important things to build self-respect and have some success in life.

1. Show up.
2. Do a little work.
3. Don't have a chip on your shoulder.

I tell them, "The students in the top two-thirds of the class aren't any better than you, they just do these things and you can, too."

I: **How did the school administration get involved?**

DM: There was a key person in our School District who also had a vision for reaching these same youth. This person knew how to make Strive work in the school. He brought on the administration, teachers, and counselors, and found all the right people who were committed to making Strive work for students. You have to rely on the cooperation of the schools. The schools promote the program through public announcements, the counselors identify students and encourage them to get involved. It takes committed school leaders and good follow-through to make the program work.

I: **What has been the response of the bottom third of the class?**

DM: We meet with the bottom third of the class and tell our story and make a strong pitch. Each year about one-third of those eligible sign the commitment form. They pledge to improve their attendance and their grades. In the 1993 class, 46 of 167 eligible students became involved. Most of the students improve attendance and GPA. This year 18 Strive students are on the B Honor Roll and two on the A Honor Roll. Strive students who improve are a success story and sometimes truly surprising.

I: **What do you do to recognize achievement?**

DM: One of our goals is to make sure that we recognize more than just the very best students. Every Strive student who improves is recognized for their effort with a certificate. The student who raises his or her grades the most is given a one year fully paid scholarship (tuition and books) to the Lakewood Community College. S/he must attend regularly and maintain a C average to receive the full scholarship.

We also provide other cash scholarships and the top ten students receive work scholarships for guaranteed summer jobs at a minimum of $6.00 an hour. We have had excellent cooperation from Rotary business leaders in administering and mentoring the summer employment program.

I: **How are the awards given?**

DM: I got the idea for an awards night to honor the Strive students when I went to the high school award dinner honoring mostly the top 10% of the class. I thought we needed something like that for Strive. So I pulled together enough money to set up a dinner on the same night as the school award dinner at a local restaurant. Strive's students and parents are invited to this annual dinner. Some come and some don't, but, it has been a great event for everyone. These students don't usually get dinners, awards, or a pat on the back. Recognizing these kids for their hard work is very important to the program and to them and their parents, as well.

How is all of this funded?

One of our main concerns when we started Strive was money. What if we didn't have enough money to keep the scholarship fund viable? Through Rotary and community support, we have found that a few fund raising events each year raise sufficient sums. People and organizations keep kicking in because they see the results. We do a bike tour in June and a 10 mile run in November. We raise about $3500 annually at the present time.

The Strive Scholarship Corporation is set up as a Minnesota non-profit corporation. All funds go to benefit the students. Our hope is to continue to build up the fund so that it can provide even more assistance to students. With more funding we could also expand to another high school.

***I:* What is your dream for Strive in the future?**

DM: I want to see Rotary Clubs all around the country develop Strive programs. About a year ago we started talking to other clubs and they responded. One program is going strong and others are underway. I would like to see one thousand clubs develop their own programs. That could mean 20,000 more senior students who are now failing could get on the A or B Honor Rolls. Strive could make the difference in the high school successes of thousands of students. It is wonderful to see their lives change. They gain self-confidence. It's so simple. They do the work and it pays off. Even the students who never get a grade higher than a C still know they have improved, and have increased self-confidence through the program.

Can you imagine these 20,000 kids getting together for morning meetings before school starts at a 91% attendance rate? Before, they weren't even coming to school; now they are showing up early.

***I:* What would you like to say to interested clubs or persons?**

DM: The bottom line is that your club and a small business or group of people starting with limited resources can make a big difference in the lives of young people. Strive is doing a great deal to address a big problem with one of our most valuable resources, our young people!

Interviewer's note: You can find out more about Strive by contacting

Don Mooney
White Bear Carpentry
2222 7th Street
White Bear Lake MN 55110

(612) 429-7877

Sample

Strive Scholarship Committee
Your Rotary Club Name Here

Date

Student Name
Address
City, State, Zip

Dear *[Insert Student Name]*:

Congratulations, *[Student name]*! Your commitment, dedication, and effort has improved your scholastic standing to a level of which you can be very proud.

You have demonstrated your ability to succeed, accomplish goals, and meet standards.

The *[Insert your club's name]* Rotary Club is proud to provide a $250 scholarship to the college or technical school of your choice upon receipt of proof of registration.

Thank you for your participation in the Strive Scholarship Program. We extend our very best regards.

With best wishes,

Strive Program Representative

Sample

Strive Scholarship Committee
Your Rotary Club Name Here

Date

Student Name
Address
City, State, Zip

Dear *[Insert Student Name]*:

Congratulations, *[Student name]*! Your commitment, dedication, hard work, and desire to succeed has rewarded you with the honor of being the most improved student in the senior class.

The *[Insert your club name]* Rotary Club recognizes the significance of your accomplishment and wishes to reward your success with a full one year scholarship to *[Name]* College. This scholarship includes tuition and books for three quarters.

When registering at the college, present this letter and advise the Admissions Office that you are the Rotary Strive Scholar. They will register you and issue books at the bookstore.

Please keep in mind that continuation of your scholarship beyond the first quarter requires that you satisfy the following requirements:

1. "C" average or better in all subjects.
2. Minimum of fifteen hours credit per semester.
3. 90% or better attendance average.

Thank you for your participation in our Strive Scholarship program. Your accomplishment, enthusiasm, and dedication will be an inspiration for future White Bear High School students.

Our very best regards,

Strive Program Representative

Sample

Rotary Club of White Bear Lake
Senior Strive Scholarship

COMMITMENT FORM

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

I, _____, am committed to doing my best during my senior year. I must maintain a minimum of "C" average to be eligible for the full tuition and books scholarship to Lakewood Community College. The scholarship will be awarded to the senior whose grade point average improves the most during the 1993-94 school year.

_____
Signed

TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNSELING OFFICE

Class Rank _____

Cum. GPA _____

Sample

Rotary Club of White Bear Lake
Senior Strive Scholarship

What is it?

A full year scholarship to Lakewood Community College including tuition and books for fall, winter, and spring. Approximate value, $2,000. A summer job with starting pay of $6.00 per hour will also be offered the scholarship winner.

What is the criteria?

To be eligible, student must be a senior at White Bear Lake High School. The scholarship winner will be the senior in that group who improves his/her GPA the most during the first three quarters of the senior year and who maintains at least a C average (5.0).

At the end of the third quarter, all applicants will have the 11th grade cumulative GPA subtracted from the cumulative GPA through the third quarter. The individual with the greatest improvement will be the winner.

Is there only one winner?

No, everybody who improves their GPA is really a winner, but, White Bear Rotary is prepared to reward up to 13 students who make significant improvements. Up to 10 seniors who commit themselves to the program, have 90% daily attendance, and present a senior year grade point average that is three grade points better (i.e., from a D+ to a C+) will be offered a summer job at $6.00 per hour.

How do I apply?

You must fill out a form available in the Counseling Office. All students who fill out the form will participate in monthly breakfast meetings. Students can begin to participate immediately.

(9/93)

How are students supported?

- Regular encouragement from teachers and administrators
- Monthly meetings with **STRIVE** students
- Mentors provided by Rotary
- Recognition banquet for students and families
- Summer work opportunities and scholarships

White Bear Lake Rotary Club
2222 Seventh Street
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
Phone 612-429-7877

STRIVE is a project with a proven track record.

Join the **STRIVE** team and make a difference through this partners in education program for youth in your community.

Your *Rotary* can make a positive difference in young lives

STRIVE

A Partners in Education Project

A Proven Program that Motivates Achievement in Students who are Academically at Risk

What is STRIVE?

STRIVE is a scholarship program that recognizes and rewards students in the lower range of class standing who show the greatest improvement in grades in their senior year of high school.

Who does STRIVE reach?

STRIVE reaches students who have found little success in the classroom. Students who rank in the lower third of the class may have the same natural abilities and gifts as those in the upper two-thirds of the class. The difference is often motivation, work habits, self-esteem, attendance, and performance in the classroom. **STRIVE** challenges these students to improve their work, gain self-confidence and discover the satisfaction of achievement.

How does STRIVE work?

Students in the lowest third of the class are invited to commit to the **STRIVE** program as they enter their senior year. They begin by signing the **STRIVE** covenant to:

- Be regular in attendance
- Work and study to the best of their ability
- Develop a positive attitude

At the end of the school year the students with the most improvement in their grade point average are recognized with scholarships and other awards. Statistically, over 75% of the students who make this covenant improved their GPA. They achieved a 91% attendance average. Many of the students make the decision to go to college or technical school after graduation.

Who are the STRIVE partners?

STRIVE will build a strong positive partnership between Rotary, schools, parents, business leaders and others interested in innovative education efforts. **STRIVE** has developed strong confidence and support from all the partners who have contributed to the projects success.

What is asked of Rotary?

Rotary Club establishes a **STRIVE** committee, develops the partnerships, provides support to the program and the students, and raises the funds for scholarships and other awards. Each club can begin small and expand the program as needed.

How can our Rotary Club Start?

Get more information by completing the form and requesting the "Start-Up Packet". The packet includes:

- Additional background on **STRIVE**
- Plans for getting started
- Ideas for scholarships and fund raising
- Sample materials
- Video on the **STRIVE** program
- Phone consultation number

If your Rotary can join with 4-5 other clubs in your area, you can request a presentation by the founding club. Cost for travel and expenses is born by the hosting clubs. If you are interested in scheduling a presentation, check the space indicated.

Complete and Mail to:

STRIVE Scholarship
2222 Seventh Street
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State (Ctry.): _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Rotary Club: _____

Please send packet: _____

Enclosed _____ $25.00 (U.S.) for packet

Interested in Presentation _____

STRIVE Phone Contact: (612) 429-7877

Comments: _____

SAMPLE MATERIALS

Sample

Strive Scholarship Committee
Your Rotary Club Name Here

Date

Contact Name
Business Office
Community College
Address
City, State, Zip

Dear *[Contact Name]*:

[Student name] has been awarded the 1993 Strive Scholarship from the Rotary Club of *[Your club name]*. This full one year scholarship includes tuition and purchase of books for all classes for three quarters.

[Student name] must meet the following scholastic criteria for the continuation of the scholarship beyond the first quarter.

1. "C" average or better in all subjects.
2. Minimum of fifteen hours credit per semester.
3. 90% or better attendance average.

Please notify me when the student is making financial arrangements for the next quarter so that compliance with the criteria can be verified and a check issued for the new quarter.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

Strive Program Representative

Certificate of Recognition

_____

has earned the distinction of

Strive Scholar

STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE

STRIVE _____ _____ PRINCIPAL

© GOES 445

White Bear Carpentry

10 Mile

Noon Sunday, Nov. 8, 1992

A low-key, fun race to kick off your winter training!

Location: Lions Park, one block east of Highway 61 off White Bear Avenue (across from Kowalski's Country Store on South Lake Avenue), White Bear Lake.

Registration: By mail closes Nov. 7. Day-of-race registration open from 11-11:45 a.m.

Cost: In advance: $9 (non-refundable). Day of race: $12.

Age Groups: None.

Awards: None (drawings instead).

Drawings: *Turkey drawings:* Cash gift certificates for turkeys from Kowalski's Country Store. Drawings will be held at 1:45 p.m. Winners must be present.

Race Memento: Long-sleeve T-shirts.

Course: Accurately wheeled; circles White Bear Lake; follows the Taco John's 15K course but with different start and finish; hills through middle miles.

Time Limit: One hour and 45 minutes.

Water: At 5.75 miles.

Race Director: Don Mooney, 429-4290 or 429-7877.

Proceeds: Go to the White Bear Carpentry Scholarship Fund. The scholarship funds a one-year scholarship (including books) to Lakewood Community College for a student from the bottom one-third of the graduating class of White Bear High School.

Showers: Available at the Northeast YMCA, 2100 Orchard Lane; show your number.

Race Management: Hugo Track Club of White Bear Lake.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM -- PLEASE PRINT NEATLY !

Mail entry form with registration fee ($9), payable to: Don Mooney.

Mail to:

Don Mooney / 10 Mile
4390 Cottage Park Road
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

RACE NUMBER

Name_____ Phone_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Age_____ Male ( ) Female ( )

I am properly trained and enter this race totally at my own risk and hereby waive all claims that I or my heirs may have against all sponsors, race directors, and all others who help stage this race, for any injuries or problems I may sustain, regardless of any negligence. I am totally responsible for my safety and all injuries I may suffer.

Signature_____

(Parent or guardian if participant is under 18.)

429-7877

White Bear Carpentry

10 Mile

Noon Sunday, Nov. 3, 1991

A low-key, fun race to kick off your winter training!

Location: Lions Park, one block east of Highway 61 off White Bear Avenue (across from Kowalski's Country Store on South Lake Avenue), White Bear Lake.

Registration: By mail closes Nov. 2. Day-of-race registration open from 11-11:45 a.m.

Cost: In advance: $9 (non-refundable). Day of race: $12.

Age Groups: None.

Awards: None (drawings instead).

Drawings: *Turkey drawings:* Cash gift certificates for turkeys from Kowalski's Country Store. Drawings will be held at 1:45 p.m. Winners must be present.

Race Memento: Long-sleeve T-shirts.

Course: Accurately wheeled; circles White Bear Lake; follows the Taco John's 15K course but with different start and finish; hills through middle miles.

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Mail entry form with registration fee ($9), payable to: Don Mooney.

Mail to:

Don Mooney / 10 Mile
4390 Cottage Park Road
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

RACE NUMBER

Name_____ Phone_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Age_____ Male ( ) Female ( )

I am properly trained and enter this race totally at my own risk and hereby waive all claims that I or my heirs may have against all sponsors, race directors, and all others who help stage this race, for any injuries or problems I may sustain, regardless of any negligence. I am totally responsible for my safety and all injuries I may suffer.

Signature_____

(Parent or guardian if participant is under 18.)

Rotary Strive

Annual Calendar of Events

Date	Meeting or Event	Reason
1st Thursday of each mo.	Rotary Strive Committe Meeting	Plan & Organize
Start of school year	All Student Assembly	Explain Strive, Invitation to students to sign the contract.
9/21	School distributes contracts	Students' commitment.
11/5	10 Mile Run	Raise funds
11/15	Strive meeting with students at school.	Progress reports, Pep talk: "You've committed, now what?"
1/15	Strive meeting with students	Progress reports, Pep talk: "4 months to go. Now it gets tough."
1/15	Contact w/College or Vo-Tech.	Continue payment of scholarship money based on student grades.
2/1	Meet with Hugo Track Club	Arrange races and data.
2/15	Strive meeting with students.	Progress reports, Pep talk: "You are well into the race--Keep it up!" Discuss summer jobs.
3/15	Rotary business owners to commit to summer jobs for students.	
3/25	Strive meeting with students	Progress reports, Pep talk: "60 days and its over--Keep going!" Discuss Awards night dinner.
4/15	5K Run	Raise funds
5/5	Strive meeting with students	Discuss. Pep talk. Home stretch.
5/15	Strive awards night and Dinner.	Honor students & award scholarships
5/16	Letter sent to students	Advise them of summer work.
5/25	Letter to college.	Advise college of Strive winner and arrange payment of scholarship money.
6/10	Work Scholarships	Work starts
6/15	Fathers' Day Bike Tour	Raise funds
8/10	Employer contact	Work scholarship bonus money earned. Bonus sent to Strive
8/15	10K Run	Raise funds
9/10	Summer Bonus	Money paid to post-secondary institution.
September	Start over.	

The Strive Scholarship

White Bear Carpentry originated and manages a scholarship program for the most improved students out of the lower one third of the White Bear High School graduating class. We provide a 1 year fully paid scholarship(tuition & books) to Lakewood College. Also, we provide two cash scholarships and ten work scholarships.

Our program for strive scholars also includes a student/parent dinner on the night of the awards ceremony at the high school.

The money for the program comes from our sponsorship of running and bike races, the direct sale of t-shirts and hats, and White Bear Carpentry and other community contributions.

In the 1993 senior class, 46 of the 167 students in the lower one third of the class joined the Strive Scholarship program and pledged to improve their grades and attendance. This year there are 16 Strive Students on the "B" honor roll and two on the "A" honor roll.

The work program is supervised, administered, and mentored by White Bear Carpentry with the students being employed by Strive Scholarship Corporation which is a State of Minnesota 317A non-profit corporation. In the past, these students had attendance, motivation, and image problems. It is our goal help them improve their self esteem, work habits, attendance, and punctuality through our program. This program has been a success by all measurements.

The bottom line is this, we are a small business with limited money and talent but we are making big differences in the lives of youths in our community. We have identified and are doing our part to correct a major problem with one of our most valuable resources, young people. The Strive Scholarship program can further expand its outreach with the help of civic minded persons such as you.

We would like to gain your support in funding this program and ask that you consider it as part of your community outreach. Your participation will benefit the students, schools and community. I would welcome the opportunity to speak to any organization that feels interested.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Best Regards,

Don Mooney
White Bear Carpentry

Rotary Club Of White Bear Lake

Strive: A Partners in Education Project of White Bear Lake Rotary

Attention, Rotary Clubs!

The White Bear Lake Rotary Education Project provides a one-year college scholarship to the ***Most Improved Student*** in the graduating class at our local high school.

Many scholarship programs reward the top 10% of the high school class or the students with the greatest financial need, but, no one rewards the accomplishments of students in the lower range of class standings.

Strive is a proven way to challenge, motivate, and reward students from the lower one-third of the graduating class. Students who accept the ***Strive challenge*** improve self-confidence and discover the satisfaction of achievement through greater learning and better grades.

The project is a partnership of our local Rotary Club and the administration and teachers of the community high school. With several years experience, Strive has the full confidence and support of all the partners who have witnessed the program's proven success.

Everyone involved in this educational project believes every Rotary Club and community high school can benefit from Strive. This packet provides you with the information and materials necessary to acquaint you with the project and get you started on your own local project.

Strive leaders would welcome the opportunity to speak to your club about the project. Please have a representative of your Vocational or Community Service committees contact Rotarian, Don Mooney at (612) 429-7877 to confirm your interest and make arrangements for a presentation.

In service to youth,

Don Mooney
Project Strive Founder

1450 Rice Creek Road NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432 (612) 572-9488

2-2-2011 Jill Thelen

43 Students

Scholarship Guidelines
for
Area Learning Center STRIVE Applicants

Each year, the White Bear Lake Rotary Club sponsors a scholarship program for White Bear Lake students. Area Learning Center students who meet eligibility guidelines can apply for a scholarship that provides money to use toward tuition and books at any college of your choice. There are also some book scholarships available to be used at most post-secondary institutions. The scholarships are based on degree of improvement over previous years regarding academic progress and involvement in our community. (ie: a struggling student who is able to overcome his/her barriers and become successful).

Area Learning Center applicants will be able to meet with Rotary Club members on at least two occasions during the school year. Students will also have the opportunity to compile a portfolio highlighting their achievements and present that portfolio in an interview with Rotary Club members in April. Successful applicants will be awarded the scholarships at an awards dinner in May.

To qualify for the STRIVE scholarship students must meet the following requirements:

- ✓ Qualified students will earn six and a half credits during the course of the 2010-2011 school year.
- ✓ Qualified students will have enrolled in White Bear Schools no later than 2011 and have continued as students in good standing throughout the school year.
- ✓ Qualified students will either have worked part-time or more while attending White Bear Area Learning Center or have successfully completed some college or technical courses ~~through post secondary enrollment options~~.
- ✓ Qualified students will have successfully completed an intensive career assessment inventory.
- ✓ Qualified students will model good citizenship; they will have had no problems with either the police or school personnel during the 2010-2011 school year.
- ✓ Qualified students will complete their graduation requirements by June 9, 2011.

✓ attendance 90%

Strive Scholarship Application
White Bear Lake Area Learning Center

Name _____

Address _____

Phone# _____

Advisor _____

Academic Information:

How many credits have you earned during this school year? Be sure to list any college or technical school credit you have earned as well as your high school credits.

_____

_____

_____

Please share the results of any college placement tests you have taken in preparation for you schooling after high school. This may include the AST, ACT, or the accuplacer tests offered by the community colleges.

_____

_____

In what ways has your approach toward school and/or learning changed since you have enrolled at the White Bear Area Learning Center?

_____

_____

Work Experience:

Briefly describe ~~the~~ ALL job experiences you have had. How has the work that you have done influenced your career goals?

_____

_____

Community Involvement:

List any activities you participated in and/or service learning projects which you were involved and describe what you role was. This may include school groups or clubs, volunteer work outside of school, or service at any other community organization.

_____

_____

_____

In what ways have you demonstrated cooperation and helpfulness to others either at home or at school?

_____

_____

_____

Personal Accomplishments:

Describe the accomplishments or success of which you are most proud. Describe Any ~~the~~ barriers that you have had to overcome.

_____

_____

_____

Future Goals and Plans:

Describe you plans following high school graduation. What steps have you taken to start putting you plan into action?

_____

_____

_____

How have your job experiences or personal inventory assessments in Transition class or Work Experience Seminar reinforced the choices you have made about your future?

_____

_____

_____

Introduction

STRIVE is a motivational program developed by Don Mooney targeted to high school seniors who want to improve their grades. The STRIVE program has a proven track record of helping students, the school, and the community. Together, Rotary, community businesses and organizations, and your local school can make a difference in the lives of one of the most valuable resources in the community.

Students in the lower one-third of the class often have the same natural abilities and gifts as those who are in the upper two-thirds of the class. The difference is often motivation, attendance, work habits, self-esteem and success in the classroom. STRIVE is one way to address all of these factors.
STRIVE is a program that can begin small and be expanded as the success and promotion of the program grows. The program can be administered, supervised, and mentored through the efforts of a few enthused individuals from Rotary, the community, and the school who form the STRIVE Committee.

How STRIVE Works

STRIVE is a scholarship program which recognizes and rewards students from the lower one-third of the senior class who show the most improvement in their class standing. The STRIVE Committee can determine the nature of the scholarships and the amounts.

The original program began by providing the following:
One fully paid scholarship (tuition and books) for one year at the local community college m Two cash scholarships of $250 each x Ten summer work opportunity scholarships at a guaranteed hourly rate, usually $1.75 higher than minimum wage

The winners of the Scholarships are determined by the net increase in their GPA from the end of the junior year to their final high school GPA. All students who show improvement in their GPA are given certificates of recognition. The GPA accounting is done by the high school.

STRIVE Begins in the Fall

As students return in the fall the school promotes the program to all students in the lower one-third of the senior class with general and personal invitations to consider the program. (Announcements about STRIVE should also be made in the summer newsletters to parents and students.) A meeting of all interested students could be held with a representative of the STRIVE Committee joining the school leader/advocate in encouraging the students to sign up. STRIVE covenants are distributed and time lines for response are established.

Covenants are verified with a letter to the STRIVE students and their parents congratulating them on their commitment to the program. An orientation meeting with all STRIVE students to review the criteria and check points of the program should be held. It is also important to hold a fall open house for the parents of these students to encourage parental support and involvement. (This is optional.)

Monitoring of Student Progress

The following procedures are helpful in monitoring the progress and providing the ongoing support for the students throughout the year:

Monthly before school meetings for encouragement and support. These meetings are held 15 to 20 minutes before class. Rotarians cover the three basics:

a) Attendance (Show up!)
b) Develop a good attitude
c) Positive work habits.

Individual contact with students who are not showing improvement. This is done by the school administration.

Affirmation of those students who are showing improvement. Invite the students to a Rotary breakfast or lunch and applaud their improvement.

Student Scholarship Winners and Recognition
Student Scholarship winners are selected on the basis of GPA improvement. These students and all others with improved GPA standing need to be included in all student recognition ceremonies. It is also important to have a parent-student banquet similar to the honor students' banquet to add further affirmation to their accomplishments.

Scholarship Fund
The STRIVE Committee will need to establish a scholarship fund under the most beneficial legal status in the state. In the original program, a non-profit STRIVE Scholarship Corporation was established under the state statutes for such a non-profit fund.
Money was raised through specific fund raising activities, such as a bike-a-thon and walk-a-thon, and individual and corporate contributions.

The scholarship fund provided the one year scholarship directly to the community college upon proof of enrollment and satisfactory progress as agreed to by the student. Additionally, cash scholarships to the school of choice were given upon enrollment. Also, the fund subsidized hourly wages as needed for summer jobs that were secured with participation of local city, county, and business employers. These job scholarships were awarded to students with further educational plans.

Developing regular funding sources is crucial to meet the annual needs of the scholarship fund.

Benefits
STRIVE is a proven way to make a difference (many years of proven success) in the performance of students. School leaders and teachers pointed to notable improvement in increased self-esteem, confidence, and motivation. Many students discovered that when they attended class and worked a little harder they had success in the classroom. Many also made the decision to go on to college.

Statistically, 75-80% of those who made the commitment to STRIVE criteria improved their GPA. These students had a 91% attendance average. They knew that the school and the community were pulling with them and for them!

Getting Started
STRIVE can become an effective service project for your Rotary Club and can make a difference in the lives of the youth of your community.

To start STRIVE, you can establish a STRIVE Committee under your Vocational Service or your Community Service areas. The key is to find two or three club members who have a vision and commitment for a program like STRIVE. Next, expand your committee by going to your local school

district or high school and sell the concept and program to some key people. Usually, you can find someone who is looking for a way to make a difference for those youth who are the target audience of the STRIVE program.

Also find a couple community business or civic leaders who also have high interest in finding ways to increase the school community partnership in education.

Now you are ready to plan your approach to STRIVE that will fit the needs and goals of your school and community.

Most STRIVE programs start with one school and with scholarship goals, which are attainable for the club, and school. You can build one year at a time and expand from the initial school, depending on the size of the district.

We wish you the best. If you would like a speaker or personal presentation about STRIVE, please call the resource number indicated in the materials.

Scholarship Fund
Establishing, developing, and maintaining the scholarship fund is a key to STRIVE program success. A number of important decisions will have to be made by the committee.
· the number and amount of the scholarships to be awarded each year.
· the amount needed to subsidize the guaranteed work program at a minimum of $1.75 or more over minimum wage.
· identify and develop methods and sources of funding.
· the amount of reserve needed beyond the annual scholarships.
· the amount needed for administration and expenses related to the fund.
· who will administer and be accountable for the fund.
· procedures for incorporating and registering the fund for non-profit status.

Funding Sources
· Your Rotary Club budget
· Other community service clubs
· Individuals in the community
· Local businesses and organizations
· Area foundations
· Fund raising activities and events
Developing regular funding sources is crucial to meet the annual needs of the scholarship fund.

Recognition of Students
One of the primary ways to insure the excellence and the success of the STRIVE program is to affirm and support the students who make a commitment to the program. It is important for the STRIVE Committee to work with the key school leader for the program to develop these incentives and recognition.

Program Suggestions
Letter to all students who commit to the program from the STRIVE committee and the school leader or principal.

Monthly or bi-monthly meetings for STRIVE students before school for 20 minutes. Rotary can provide a roll and juice. The school leader and a committee representative should attend to touch base with the students and encourage student progress.

Publicize STRIVE students where and when appropriate during the school year.

Recognize STRIVE scholarship winners at regular school honors programs.

Hold an annual STRIVE banquet modeled after other honor banquets with parents invited. Provide school and/or Rotary award certificates to all students who demonstrate improvement in class standing.

Publicize STRIVE winners along with all other school award winners in the local newspaper.

The STRIVE Committee should work with the school to give as much emphasis and recognition to STRIVE students and winners as other award programs.

Strive Curriculum

Comprehensive Goals:

- Academic Improvement
- Develop a sense of community
- Goal setting and planning for future
- Explore post-secondary opportunities
- Skills for job interviews
- Identify individual strengths and apply them

October – Team Building, Leadership Development, and Initiatives (Base Camp, St. Paul, MN

Objectives and Outcomes:

1. Students will build cohesive group with Strive participants
2. Challenge students to stretch their comfort zone (much like they will have to at College)
3. Students will demonstrate leadership in activities
4. Students will understand their commitment to Strive and develop skills of commitment they will apply to challenges later in life.
5. Students will strengthen their understanding of academic goals for their Senior year and college
6. Students will conquer fears they may have on ropes course and transfer those skills to post High School success

November – Strength Finder

Objectives and Outcomes:

1. Students will explore possible strengths/themes for each student involved with Strive
2. Students will view a video introducing the Strength Finder Assessment
3. Each student will receive a book and we will do a quick overview
4. Students will use the personal ID in the back of the book to take the Strength Finder assessment

5. Students will save their results for the processing meeting in December

December – Individual Personal Reflection and Planning

Objectives and Outcomes:

1. Students will finish the Strength Finder online assessment and print their top 5 strengths

2. Counselors will process with students the 34 strength categories and how they apply to themes of being successful after high school

3. Students will read in the Strengths Finder 2.0 book about their individual strengths as identified in their results report

4. Activity: Students will partner with one other Strive students who has a similar strength and note which attributes they share in common and how they differ

-Counselors and Rotary members will circulate between students and give them real life examples of how the identified strength can be effectively used in careers and life

January – Guest: Admissions Counselor from Century College

Objectives and Outcomes:

1. Strive students will view and listen to the presentation from Century College

2. Students will learn the application process for Century College admissions

3. Students will understand what classes they need to begin with to prepare for a 2-year or 4-year degree

4. Students will engage with questions to help them better prepare for post-secondary success

5. Activity: Students will discuss barriers to success in their transition to postsecondary life.

February – Academic Review/Goal Setting

Objectives and Outcomes:

1. Students will review first semester grades and impact on GPA.

2. Students will reflect and modify achievement goals by writing SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Results Oriented, Timely) for semester 2.

2. Students will develop 5 goals for their post-secondary success

3. Activity: Students will review goals with a Rotary volunteer and Counselor in order to obtain feedback

4. Students will participate in a large group discussion about how to apply their goals

March – Interview Skills and Techniques

Objectives and Outcomes:

1. Rotary volunteer will share insights on interviewing and hiring.

2. Students will listen and observe a role-play of a real life job interview

3. Counselors will process the role-play and allow student to ask questions before students participate in mock interviews

3. Rotary volunteers and Counselors will conduct mock-interviews with all Strive students

4. Large group processing lead by counseling team

April – Academic Review and Skills for Higher Learning

Objectives and Outcomes:

1. Rotary guest (current Century College student) shares personal experience during post-secondary transition

2. Counselors will guide to review mid-term progress reports and evaluate progress toward individual goals.

May – Strive Banquet

- Banquet at Donatellis in White Bear Lake where awards are presented

- **Each activity will begin with an ice breaker and get-to-know-you activity that each strive student participates in. This provides a sense of cohesiveness and connectivity**
- **Each activity has a "processing" component that allows students to reflect on what they learned and apply it to their lives**

A Race to Benefit the Strive Scholarship Program

KOWALSKI'S STRIVE 10 MILER

Date: Nov. 6 2011
Time: 12:00 Noon
Lions Park
White Bear Lake, MN

KOWALSKI'S 10 MILER
A STRIVE SCHOLARSHIP RACE
c/o RANDY FULTON
1665 9th St.
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Kowalskis 10 Miler November 6, 2011

first name | last name | M F gender | birth date | age

address | city | state | zip

home phone | day phone | S M L XL shirt size

email address

WAIVER In consideration of acceptance of entry, for myself, executors, administrator and assignees do hereby release and discharge Rotary and all sponsors and associates from claims of damage, actions whatsoever, in any manner arising or growing out of participation in said event. Knowingly and at my own risk, I do hereby apply to enter an athletic contest. Further, I hereby grant full permission to any and all of the foregoing to use my name, likeness and voice, as well as any photographs, videotape, motion pictures, recordings and any other record of this event in which I may appear for any legitimate purpose including broadcast of the event, the reuse in any media of this broadcast and in advertising and promoting. I attest that I have full knowledge of the risk involved in the event and I am physically fit and sufficiently trained to participate in the event

signature _____ *Date* _____

parent or guardian must sign if participant is under 18

KOWALSKI'S STRIVE 10 MILER

All proceeds from the Kowalski's Strive 10 Miler go to Strive Scholarship. The Strive Scholarship program funds scholarships to Century College and book scholarships for other post-secondary schools for the most improved students at White Bear Lake High School and the White Bear Lake Area Learning Center.

Location of Event (NOTE CHANGE!!)

Lions Park, on the west shore of White Bear Lake, just across from Kowalskis. Parking available in the Kowalskis parking lot.

Course

Around beautiful White Bear Lake. The course will begin and end at Lions Park.

Registration

By mail closes Friday, November 4, 2011. $30 Race day registration begins at 11:00 a.m. Race day entry fee is $35

Schedule

Race starts at 12:00 noon.

Age Groups

Male and Female
19 and under, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+

Awards

Top 3 runners in each age group

Race Memento

Long sleeve t-shirt

Results

Will be posted at
www.frontrunnerusa.com

Online registration available at :
www.midwestevents.com

Race Director

Randy Fulton (651) 653-7401

Mail entry form to:

Kowalski's Strive 10 Miler
A Strive Scholarship Race
c/o Randy Fulton
1665 9th St.
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Make checks out to Strive Scholarship

OTHER
STRIVE SCHOLARSHIP
RACES

STRIVE SCHOLARSHIP
5K and 10K
April 7, 2012
WHITE BEAR LAKE
9:00 A.M.

RUN BABY RUN
August 4, 2012
WHITE BEAR LAKE
8:00 A.M.

Race and registration information available at www.midwestevents.com or 651-653-7401

Rotary Club of White Bear Lake
Senior Strive Scholarship

COMMITMENT FORM

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

I, _____, am committed to doing my best during my senior year. I must maintain a minimum of "C" average to be eligible for the full tuition and books scholarship to Lakewood Community College. The scholarship will be awarded to the senior whose grade point average improves the most during the school year.

_____
Signed

TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNSELING OFFICE

Class Rank _____

Cum. GPA _____

Rotary Club of White Bear Lake
Senior Strive Scholarship

What is it?

A full year scholarship to Lakewood Community College including tuition and books for fall, winter, and spring. Approximate value, $2,800.

What is the criteria?

To be eligible, student must be a senior at White Bear Lake High School. The scholarship winner will be the senior in that group who improves his/her GPA the most during the first three quarters of the senior year and who maintains at least a C average.

At the end of the third quarter, all applicants will have the 11th grade cumulative GPA subtracted from the cumulative GPA through the third quarter. The individual with the greatest improvement will be the winner.

Is there only one winner?

No, everybody who improves their GPA is really a winner, but, White Bear Rotary is prepared to reward up to 10 students who make significant improvements. The 10 seniors who commit themselves to the program, have 90% daily attendance, and improve their grades will be given a summer job paying $6.50 per hour with a $1.50 bonus paid at the end of summer to the students further educational endeavors.

How do I apply?

You must fill out a form available in the Counseling Office. All students who fill out the form will participate in monthly breakfast meetings. Students can begin to participate immediately.