



Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE)
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*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

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**MEET THE ARTISTS RECEPTION FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ARTISTS WHO HAVE
WORK ON EXHIBIT AT THE LENZ WINERY**

OLD BETHPAGE, NY – Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE) invites everyone to a **Meet the Artists Reception** to honor special needs artists participating in their Fine Art and Art Therapy Programs who have their works exhibited at the **The LENZ Winery** on 38355 New York State Route 25, Peconic, NY. The reception will be held at The LENZ Winery on Friday, July 7, 2017 from 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Where:
The LENZ Winery
38355 New York State Route 25
Peconic, NY 11958

When:
Friday
July 7th, 2017
5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

*****Great visuals as artists will be present and able to speak about their creations*****

The LENZ Winery, one of Long Island's oldest and most prestigious North Fork vineyards, has long been a supporter of FREE. They have hosted a number of showcases for artwork created by members of FREE's art

More...

program.

FREE, a leader in the field of human services dedicated to helping individuals of all abilities realize their full potential believes that Art Therapy provides a powerful means for healing and communication for anyone, but especially for people who find it difficult to express their thoughts and feelings through spoken words alone.

The exhibit runs through September 4th, 2017. “Ascension” is FREE’s second Professionally Juried Competition of artwork created by the Artists of FREE. Over 40 paintings were submitted to this year’s competition! The artists represented are the finalists whose quality of work “rose high” to have garnered entrance into this glorious collection. Fifteen Tier One pieces were selected along with First, Second and Third place winners by our esteemed judge, Kevin Larkin, Director of the B.J. Spoke Gallery in Huntington and award-winning artist.

You are witness to the enormous courage and strength needed to take on the challenge of creating a free form abstract painting. Throughout the eleven months it took to complete our process, weekly emotional and spiritual self-revelation spiraled our artists to ever mounting artistic heights allowing them to find their voices and “talk to us” through the mystical, hidden language of images, colors and symbols.

“Ascension” consists of wide ranging depictions of different elements of nature. Skies, land forms, water and other natural elements span across all of the canvases displaying the artists’ connection to our world and the pathway to creativity. We worked through nine stages of creation.... from beginning sketches in pencil to learning how to handle pastels, water colors and finally acrylic paints.

While the artwork is beautiful to look at it is important to recognize the incredible depth of emotional release, intellectual learning and work skills development that took place over months of work with all of FREE’s dedicated staff. It was their patience and unerring commitment to “stay the course” and believe that our artists could reach high to not only “see their healing image”, but also commit it to permanent form for all to share in their vision.

Much has been written about the healing power of Mindfulness Based Art Therapy and the creative process of spiritual self-expression, especially for individuals who may find it difficult to express their thoughts and feelings through spoken words alone. The images on view are a testament to this healing power, as FREE’s artists faced the challenge to “break through” familiar modes of expression and embrace feelings of trust, hope and peace, offering them an alternative to chaos, conflict and fear. This project in creativity has helped fortify the groundwork for our artists’ successful, ongoing contributions to our community through employment, volunteerism and cultural enhancement for us all.

All are encouraged to view the works and perhaps purchase a piece. The proceeds of sales go towards supporting the artist and their program.

Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE)

Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE), founded in 1977, benefits and proudly supports more than 4,000 individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities, mental illness and traumatic brain injury. It is the mission of FREE to assist individuals of all abilities realize their full potential. FREE provides a diverse array of supports and services including: housing; recovery services; transition to work; employment; day, community and family services; respite; crisis services; education and after school support; specialty health services; and advocacy.

FREE also collaborates with a variety of diverse 501(c)(3) nonprofit partners on educational, vocational, rehabilitative and a myriad of other creative initiatives to enhance the local communities and the lives of more than 25,000 people that reside within them. Each of the valued partners of the FREE Network has a unique mission, vision and strategic goals that are aligned in purpose, and embody the spirit of the meaningful work we do every day. For more information, please call 516-870-7000 or visit www.familyres.org.

About The LENZ Winery

Founded in 1978, The LENZ Winery has some of the most mature vines in the region and given the extensive replanting of California vineyards to avoid further damage from the phylloxera louse, in the country as well. All LENZ wines are estate bottled, meaning they are made from grapes grown entirely in the LENZ vineyards. We strive to create wines that will be among the very best of its type, made anywhere in the world. The LENZ Tasting Room is open daily from 10am - 6pm. For more information, please call 631-734-6010.

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