



Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE)
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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

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**SPECIAL NEEDS NON-PROFITS ANNOUNCE NEW SOCIAL MEDIA
AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**



Ronni of ACLD and Michael of FREE Shared Their #Moments4Smiles

OLD BETHPAGE, NY – Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc.(FREE) in partnership with Adults and Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities (ACLD) held a press conference announcing the launch of a new social media campaign #Moments4Smiles. #Moments4smiles is a movement to bring global awareness to the fact that all

More...

humans are very much alike. Differently-abled, or not, a SMILE is universal.

“I’m excited about the launch of this campaign,” said Robert S. Budd, CEO, FREE. “It’s important towards helping normalize the community we serve by showing the rest of the world just how alike we all are,” he continued.

“A smile sends the message that there are no differences and barriers among us. We all share enjoyment in things in life that make us smile. We are more similar than we are different,” said Robert C. Goldsmith, Executive Director of ACLD.

The campaign announcement was made at FREE’s annual Advocacy and Disability Awareness Conference. The goal of the conference was to help the community FREE serves to learn about themselves, be able to express their own opinions, obtain information and resources necessary to make choices that lead to positive change in their own lives, and on behalf of those who are unable to speak for themselves.

The event was attended by over one hundred members of the special needs community, members of the Nassau Kings wheelchair basketball team, and many others who shared their stories and their #Moments4Smiles.



Members of the Nassau Kings with Angel of FREE’s Theater Day Program

About 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 help 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 have 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 ACLD

Founded in 1957, Adults and Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities, Inc. (ACLD) is a 501(c)3 non-profit agency. Celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2017, the organization continues to provide opportunities for children and

adults with autism, learning and other developmental disabilities to pursue enviable lives, increase independence and foster supportive relationships within the community. ACLD employs more than 1,100 people and operates 80 different program sites including group homes and apartment programs across Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Service programs include early childhood services, day habilitation, residential alternatives, vocational training and job placement, recreation programs, respite, family support services, Medicaid service coordination, and medical and behavioral health services.

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