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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 21, 2017**

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**LOCAL NON-PROFIT LEADERS PRESENT SPEAKING FREE WITH  
CHRIS AND ROBERT ON K98.3**

**Latest Episode Will Focus on November as National Adoption Awareness Month**



**L-R: Robert S. Budd, CEO, FREE; Dr. Christopher D. Long, President FREE; Anita Dowd-Neufeld, Chief Administrative Officer, FREE and Adoptive Parent; Melanie, Foster Youth, MercyFirst; and Pat O' Brien, Long Island Rockland Director, Adoption and Guardianship Assistance Program for Everyone, (AGAPE), Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition New York**

More...

**Old Bethpage, NY** – Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE) is proud to present Speaking FREE with Chris and Robert on K98.3 on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 a.m. The latest episode will focus on November as National Adoption Awareness Month. Listeners will be able to hear the stories of the following guests who are sharing their experiences with this timely issue:

Co-produced by Connoisseur Media, FREE President Dr. Christopher D. Long, and FREE CEO Robert S. Budd host the show and interviewed this month's guests:

Anita Dowd Neufeld, an adoptive parent and Chief Administrative Officer, FREE.

Melanie a foster youth from MercyFirst, a not-for-profit human service agency serving more than 3,200 children, teenagers and families each year in Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Pat O'Brien, Long Island Rockland Director, Adoption and Guardianship Assistance Program for Everyone, (AGAPE), Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition New York

#### **About Speaking FREE with Chris and Robert**

Co-produced by Connoisseur Media, Speaking FREE with Chris and Robert features FREE President Dr. Christopher D. Long and FREE CEO Robert S. Budd discussing topics ranging from the employment of the differently-abled individuals to finding forever homes for children in foster care. The show periodically has guests from within FREE, as well as FREE's partner agencies, and community leaders.

#### **About Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE)**

Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE) founded in 1977 and headquartered in Old Bethpage, benefits and proudly supports more than 4,000 individuals with intellectual 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, primary and specialty health care and advocacy. For more information, please call 516-870-7000 or visit [www.familyres.org](http://www.familyres.org).

#### **About MercyFirst**

Headquartered in Syosset, NY, MercyFirst is a not-for-profit human service agency founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1894. MercyFirst provides an integrated continuum of care for over 3,200 traumatized and neglected children, teenagers and their families at sites throughout Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties. MercyFirst operates Family Support Programs, Foster Homes and Adoption Services, Treatment Family Foster Care, Community-based Group Homes, Mother/Child Residences and Campus-based Residential Treatment Programs. Learn more at [www.mercyfirst.org](http://www.mercyfirst.org).