



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

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**RESIDENTS OF SPECIAL NEEDS HOME LEARN HOW TO PREPARE
THANKSGIVING FEAST**



Kathleen Attanasio, Branch Manager, People's United Bank, volunteered to lead a cooking class for the residents at FREE's Medford residential program

Old Bethpage, NY – Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE), a nonprofit agency that supports more than 4,000 individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities, mental illness and traumatic brain injury, recently held a Thanksgiving cooking class for residents in Medford, hosted and led by Kathleen Attanasio, Branch Manager at People's United Bank in Huntington .

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During the class, Attanasio volunteered her time to help prep, cook and serve a traditional Thanksgiving feast, and most importantly, connected with residents teaching them important life and social skills.

“For many of our residents, it’s these life skills like cooking that are invaluable as they aim to gain greater independence and expand their horizons with new experiences,” said Robert S. Budd, CEO of FREE. “It’s through volunteers like Attanasio and organizations like People’s United Bank who strive to give back to the communities where they live and work, that we can further FREE’s mission to enhance the lives of our residents and we could not be more thankful.”

FREE hosts other similar events throughout the year for residents, including a holiday cookie baking class in December which will also be led by Attanasio.

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.

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