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**Little Flower Children and Family Services of New York**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** October 21, 2015

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**LITTLE FLOWER**

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## **YOUTH GRADUATE FROM TRANSITION TO WORK PROGRAM AND LEARN THE VALUE OF EXPERIENCE**

October 21, 2015 — Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE) an agency that supports individuals with intellectual disabilities, mental illness and traumatic brain injury throughout Long Island, Queens and New York City and Little Flower Children and Family Services of New York, one of the largest and most respected agencies providing critical programs and services to children, families and adults with developmental disabilities in New York City and across Long Island will be celebrating the “graduation” of four young men from FREE’s **Transition to Work** program, a collaborative venture between the two agencies. The ceremony will be taking place on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, at 3p.m. at FREE’s Saddle Rock Ranch, 41 Coram Swezeytown, Rd, Middle Island, NY.

**Where:**

**Saddle Rock Ranch  
41 Coram Swezeytown Rd  
Middle Island, NY 11953**

**When:**

**Monday  
October 26, 2015  
3:00 p.m.**

**\*Great Visuals as Suffolk County Legislator Sarah Anker will present the youth with certificates of recognition\*  
More...**

Work experience is a critical component of preparing youth for transition to adulthood. The collaboration between FREE and Little Flower has enabled 20 youth to gain valuable hands-on work experience in a safe and friendly environment. After completing the ten week transition to employment workshop, four Little Flower youth secured internships at FREE's Saddle Rock Ranch in Middle Island, NY. The interns benefitted by gaining job readiness skills that employers look for in entry level workers such as communication, teamwork, adaptability, problem solving, and time management.

The youth came away with tangible occupational skills in construction, maintenance, property management, animal care, agricultural and the culinary arts. The Transition to Work Program was made possible by a grant from the Long Island Community Foundation.

Suffolk County Legislator Sarah Anker will be on-hand to congratulate the interns and present them with certificates of recognition.

**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 Little Flower Children and Family Services of New York** ([www.littleflowerny.org](http://www.littleflowerny.org)): For over 85 years Little Flower has been guided by the mission to provide hope and help to thousands of people every year. In 2014 alone the agency managed the successful adoption of 60 children into new families, served over 900 children in loving foster families, cared for 137 children in the Residential Treatment and Respite Centers, helped 132 children return to their own families, assisted 44 young adults to begin life on their own, and helped over 350 adults with developmental disabilities to lead more rewarding lives.

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