



---

**Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE)**  
191 Bethpage-Sweet Hollow Road, Old Bethpage, NY 11804  
Phone: 516-870-1600 Fax: 516-870-1660

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 20, 2015**

**CONTACT: FREE**

Patrice Radowitz, Tel: [516-870-1621](tel:516-870-1621)/Cell: [631-553-7432](tel:631-553-7432)

Email: [pradowitz@familyres.org](mailto:pradowitz@familyres.org)

Andy Robles: 516-603-0447

Email: [familyres.free@gmail.com](mailto:familyres.free@gmail.com)

## **SPECIAL NEEDS JAZZ GROUP TO PERFORM AT SIGNING FOR AUTISM AWARENESS CHILDREN'S BOOK**



Old Bethpage, NY – Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE) announced that the FREE Players Jazz Ensemble, a group of differently-abled individuals who participate in FREE's theater day program will be performing at the **Autism Awesomeness: The Adventures of Princess Africa** book signing by author Felisha "Loud" Lord. The signing will take place on September 17, 2015 from 7:00 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Book Revue, 313 New York Avenue, Huntington, NY.

More...

The book **Autism Awesomeness: The Adventures of Princess Africa** is part of the “*Don’t Wait, Evaluate!*” project geared towards bringing about awareness of autism in the Caribbean and United States. The main goal of “*Don’t Wait, Evaluate!*” is to educate people and provide free therapy and early intervention for children with autism. These services will be available to parents who are not aware that their child has autism, as well as to parents who have a child already diagnosed with autism, but may not necessarily have the resources available to them.

Due to the lack of funds, resources, and most importantly education, many parents in the Caribbean do not pay attention to and are not aware of the early signs of autism. Instead, they let too much time pass without early intervention. However, with access to education and the resources that this project will provide, parents will be able to give their child a fair chance to be able to communicate effectively. Most importantly, these children may gain independence and have the ability to take care of themselves in their adult years.

This project was created by Felisha “Loud” Lord, whose 3-year old daughter, Africa, was diagnosed with autism. Felisha decided to create a children’s book called **Autism Awesomeness: The Adventures of Princess Africa**. Twenty percent of the proceeds generated from sales of this book will be donated to this project to provide early intervention for children with autism.

**Autism Awesomeness: The Adventures of Princess Africa** shares the discovery of Africa’s autism diagnosis. Africa Lord’s personality is displayed in pictures and activities throughout the pages of the book, showing a child who is beating the odds and being happy throughout the process.

#### 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 Felisha Loud

Felisha "Loud" Lord, the Jamaican born actress has an endless resume that gets updated daily. She is strong, persistent and talented in every way. In her teens, she attended the New York Film Academy and graced the pages of Essence Magazine, Girl Magazine and YM Magazine. She also made an appearance on the Dave Chappell Show. With Royal Palm Estate, Joint Tenant, Claro Cash Cab and The Mega Mart Shopping Show under her belt, Felisha Lord conquered the world of television in Jamaica.

Today, Felisha is currently working on several projects. This includes hosting her own radio show which streams from FelishaLoud.com and is also aired throughout the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut tri-state area. This past year, she produced a calendar called the “12 Faces of Loud”, which was distributed to the public and highlights non-competing businesses in New York. She also wrote a children’s book, **Autism Awesomeness: The Adventures of Princess Africa** about her daughter’s autism discovery. Along with these projects, Felisha is the host on 93.5 FM, Caribmixx Radio, every Sunday from 1pm to 2pm. This is only the beginning as she has many more goals and projects that she is planning to embark upon.