

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

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SPECIAL NEEDS ACTING TROUPE BRINGS BROADWAY CLASSIC TO LIFE FREE PLAYERS PRESENT THE WIZARD OF OZ

Old Bethpage, NY – Opening on Friday, November 13th and running through Sunday, November 15th, the greatest family musical of all time makes its way down the Yellow Brick Road to the Bayway Arts Center. The Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE) FREE Players, in association with the Broad Hollow Theater Company will proudly present their adaptation of the beloved classic **The Wizard of Oz**.

The Wizard of Oz is a family-friendly musical where you will join Dorothy Gale of Kansas as she dreams of what lies over the rainbow. Along the way you'll meet the Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion as you take a magical journey through the Land of Oz, complete with a wizard, witches and winged monkeys. At the end of your trip you'll discover the importance of friendship, and realize there really is no place like home.

When: Friday, November 13, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. Saturday, November 14, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. Sunday, November 15, 2015 – 2:00 p.m.

Where:

Bayway Arts Center 265 East Main Street East Islip, NY

The FREE Players is a one-of-a-kind theatre troupe within FREE embracing the talents of performers of all abilities. The FREE Players dedicate their energies to the arts through instruction in dance, drama, music, technical theater, and fine arts. Through the arts, individuals have made great strides in improving their interpersonal skills, as well as the ability to multitask, focus, and take direction, all of which helps them move towards their goal of being independent contributing members of society.

The annual musical fundraiser supports opportunities for the men and women who receive services from FREE. Proceeds from this year's fundraiser will go to enhancing current opportunities and developing innovative community programing alternatives.

FREE entered into a new partnership with the Bayway Arts Center where the theater will receive valuable help with their day-to-day operations by the men and women supported by FREE providing these individuals with the opportunity to explore and develop their full vocational potential.

For more information about the FREE Players, please contact Jessica Gallone at (516) 870-1600, ext. 1815.

Tickets are \$20 and go on sale October 1st, 2015. For tickets please call (516) 870-7001 or visit <u>www.freeplayersboxoffice.com</u>.

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 <u>www.familyres.org</u>.