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**Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE)**  
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**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 9, 2016**

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**SYMPOSIUM FOR YOUTH WITH POTENTIAL TO HOLD MEDIA  
AVAILABILITY**

**Old Bethpage, NY** – On Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m., Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE) will be holding a Media Availability at the Hilton Long Island at 598 Broad Hollow Road in Melville to help raise awareness about the challenges faced by youth with potential.

FREE is hosting a symposium that day entitled Youth Services: Inspiration for A New Generation. This conference will explore new ideas and ways to more effectively address the many challenges facing foster youth, youth on drugs, youth with developmental/intellectual disabilities, homeless youth, youth with mental health conditions and issues facing LGBT youth as they move through the continuum of care from childhood into adulthood.

**Where:**  
**Hilton Long Island**  
**598 Broad Hollow Road**  
**Melville, NY 11747**

**When:**  
**Friday**  
**September 30, 2016**  
**12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

More...

The Keynote Speaker at the symposium will be Shadrack Boakye of the Truth Urban Theatre League. In addition there will be an Innovative Community Solutions Panel comprised of the Honorable Fernando Camacho – Court of Claims Judge and Acting Supreme Court Justice; Suffolk County Deputy Police Commissioner Risco Mention-Lewis – COTA; Suffolk County Sheriff Vincent F. DeMarco; Eileen Kadletz, Executive Director – Long Island Families Together; Mike Giuffrida, Associate Director – Long Island Coalition for the Homeless; Gerard Cairns, Vice President of Education and Youth Services – FREE.

After the panel there will be breakout sessions with topics such as:

Access to Service Options for Children with Special Needs  
Council on Thought and Action (COTA): Criminal Thinking to Community Activist  
St. Mary's Inpatient and Community Programs  
Harnessing Hip Hop  
FREE's Innovative Services for Youth Transitioning into Adulthood

**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 Family of 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](http://www.familyres.org).

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