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

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FROM: Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE)  
191 Bethpage-Sweet Hollow Road, Old Bethpage, NY 11804

CONTACT: Patrice Radowitz: Tel: 516-870-1621/Cell: 631-553-7432/  
Email: [pradowitz@familyres.org](mailto:pradowitz@familyres.org)  
Adam Mazur: Tel: 917-476-1099/Email:amazur1013@gmail.com

**FREE CEO ROBERT S. BUDD TO BE HONORED AT  
LONG ISLAND GLBT NETWORK  
ANNUAL EQUALITY AWARDS GALA, FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2014**

Old Bethpage, NY (March 26, 2014) - Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE), a not-for-profit agency that benefits and proudly supports more than 3,500 individuals with intellectual disabilities, mental illness and traumatic brain injuries, has announced that FREE CEO Robert S. Budd will be honored by Long Island GLBT Network at the organization's annual Equality Awards Gala on Friday, May 2, 2014.

The gala, which will be held at Carlyle on the Green at Bethpage State Park in Farmingdale, NY, benefits the Long Island GLBT Network, an advocacy group for ending homophobia and transphobia that also provides a home and safe space for the GLBT community, through its various centers across Long Island.

"It is an honor to support the wonderful work of the Long Island GLBT Network and our partnership to assist differently abled individuals of this community thru many initiatives that focus on equal rights and dignity for all people," remarked Mr. Budd. "I'd like to share this distinction with everyone who wants to make a difference."

David Kilmnick, PhD, MSW and Chief Executive Officer for the Long Island GLBT Network, commented, "Robert Budd is a genuine role model, not only to myself and The Network but to

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anyone who cares about equality among people. His strength, character and unwavering dedication have impacted countless lives throughout the region and we look forward to commemorating his life's work at our upcoming gala."

### **About Long Island GLBT Services Network**

Long Island GLBT Services Network is an association of non-profits working to serve Long Island's GLBT community throughout the lifespan: Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth (LIGALY), The Long Island GLBT Community Center (The Center), and Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders – Long Island (SAGE-LI). LIGALY is the original organization of The Network as it was founded in 1993 and is nationally known for its work with GLBT youth in the areas of education, advocacy, youth leadership and development and support. The Center and SAGE-LI along with the Network was founded in 2005 to unite these non-profits to help more GLBT people across the lifespan and create a cost efficient way of serving the Long Island GLBT Community.

With shared administrative staff between all organizations, this structure eliminates duplication of administrative and executive staff thereby allowing each organization of The Network to share resources. This unique model reduces overhead costs and expenses and as a result more than 80 cents of every dollar raised are channeled directly into critical programs and services for Long Islanders of all ages and walks of life.

### **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 3,500 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 516-870-1612 or visit [www.familyres.org](http://www.familyres.org).

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