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Special Olympics Equestrian Show to Feature Hundreds of Special Needs Athletes Vying for Opportunity to Compete at State Level

Old Bethpage, NY –(September 02, 2014)-Hundreds of special needs athletes will be participating in a regional Special Olympics Equestrian Show with the hopes of qualifying for the state Special Olympics. Each athlete will compete in equitation and an obstacle course class. Riders will be selected from the highest scoring competitors to go on and compete in the state competition. The event will take place at HorseAbility at SUNY Old Westbury on Saturday, September 6, from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

WHEN:

8:30a.m. – 1:30p.m. Saturday, September 6, 2014

WHERE:

HorseAbility 223 Store Hill Rd Old Westbury, NY 11568

These athletes trained for 8 weeks at Saddle Rock Ranch and HorseAbility, and they will be supported during the competition by volunteers who have spent their summer working with the children and adults in preparation for this event. Saddle Rock Ranch has had several competitors go on to states and medal each year in the past and has been one of two Special Olympics Equestrian training sites for the past eight years. In the past two years, they have grown their program from 20 to over 50 athletes.

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 516-870-7000 or visit <u>www.familyres.org</u>.