



PRESS RELEASE

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NORTHWELL SPONSORS MOBILE FARMER'S MARKET FOR FOOD INSECURE LONG ISLANDERS



L-R: Nancy Copperman, Vice President, Community Health, Northwell Health; Kimberly Schultz, Community Projects Director, Eat Smart NY Long Island Region (ESNYLI), Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE); Melanie Levy, Nutrition Educator, FREE, ESNYLI; Seema Uppaul, Nutrition Educator, FREE, ESNYLI; Amy Bly, Senior Nutrition Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Suffolk, ESNYLI; Anthony Garcia, Nutrition Educator, CCE Suffolk, ESNYLI; Anita Dowd-Neufeld, Chief Administrative Officer, FREE; Robert S. Budd, CEO, FREE and Joe Jankowski, Senior Director of Government and Public Relations, FREE.

BRENTWOOD, NY – Northwell Health announced that they are sponsoring the FREE Fresh Truck Mobile Market, a farmer's market on wheels run by the Old Bethpage-based nonprofit Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE). The truck, donated by Suffolk Transportation Services, Inc., filled with fresh fruits

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and vegetables, will make healthy, local, affordable produce available to Long Islanders, especially those who are experiencing food insecurity, each week at six locations in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

The FREE Fresh Truck Mobile Market is FREE's way of making locally grown fresh produce more accessible in high need communities. In addition, it provides FREE with a means of making a positive impact on the obesity epidemic. The FREE Fresh Truck Mobile Market will have nutrition educators on hand to help answer questions and provide guidance as well as tip sheets, books, samples and giveaways.

“As an organization that cares for two million people every year, we see many who would benefit from adding more fresh produce to their diets and appreciate FREE's partnership to accomplish this,” said Ram Raju, MD, chief community investment officer at Northwell Health. “Many ailments, from heart disease to diabetes, could either be prevented or minimized through a healthy diet that incorporates fresh fruits and vegetables.”

“The produce will primarily come from FREE's FREEdom Farm in Brentwood,” said Robert S. Budd, MPS, chief executive officer of FREE. “Some additional items will come from farms at our affiliate Skills Unlimited, Inc. in Oakdale and FREE's Saddle Rock Ranch in Middle Island. We appreciate Northwell Health's partnership in this endeavor, which will go a long way to providing people with the fresh produce that is so beneficial for their diets and lives.”

The Fresh Truck Mobile Market will be available on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Dolan Family Health Center in Greenlawn and the Family Medicine Center at Glen Cove Hospital from 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. On Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., the truck will be at Adelante of Suffolk County in Central Islip and from 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. at FREEdom Farm in Brentwood. On Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at HRHCare Health Center at Brentwood and from 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. at Southside Hospital in Bay Shore.



The FREE Fresh Truck Mobile Market makes locally grown fresh produce more accessible in high need communities.

The following can be used to purchase items from the mobile farmer's market: SNAP/EBT cards, FreshConnect Checks, New York State Farmers Market Nutrition Program WIC checks, Senior Checks, WIC Vegetables and Fruit Checks and cash. For more information, call (631) 948-5548.

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About Northwell Health

Northwell Health is New York State's largest health care provider and private employer, with 23 hospitals, 665 outpatient facilities and more than 18,500 affiliated physicians. We care for over two million people annually in the New York metro area and beyond, thanks to philanthropic support from our communities. Our 66,000 employees – 16,000-plus nurses and 4,000 employed doctors, including members of Northwell Health Physician Partners – are working to change health care for the better. We're making breakthroughs in medicine at the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research. We're training the next generation of medical professionals at the visionary Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell and the Hofstra Northwell School of Graduate Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies. For information on our more than 100 medical specialties, visit Northwell.edu.

About 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 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.