



Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE)
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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

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MEET THE ARTISTS RECEPTION HONORING ARTISTS WITH AUTISM AND OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS

Special Exhibit at Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at LIU Post



(L-R) Ed Regensburg, Director Art Therapy, FREE, with FREE Artists Steven, Valley Stream; Anthony, Lindenhurst, and Joe, Seaford; Stephanie Turner, Director of Education and Outreach, Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at LIU Post; Oktavia Kiss, Arts Education Coordinator, Tilles Center of the Performing Arts at LIU Post; and Gabrielle Goubran, Intern, Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at LIU Post.

More...

OLD BETHPAGE, NY – Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE) held a Meet the Artists Reception to honor special needs artists participating in their Fine Art and Art Therapy Programs. Those artists have their collection entitled “Ascension” exhibited at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at LIU Post through June 12, 2019.

“The way the individuals we are privileged to serve express themselves through their art is truly moving,” said Robert S. Budd, CEO, FREE. “Exhibitions, such as this one, are so important. They allow the larger community the ability to see the talents each of the artists possess, and realize that art truly has no limits,” he continued.

FREE, a leader in the field of human services dedicated to helping individuals of all abilities realize their full potential believes that Art Therapy provides a powerful means for healing and communication for anyone, but especially for people who find it difficult to express their thoughts and feelings through spoken words alone. You are witness to the enormous courage and strength needed to take on the challenge of creating a free form abstract painting. Throughout the eleven months it took to complete our process, weekly emotional and spiritual self-revelation spiraled our artists to ever mounting artistic heights allowing them to find their voices and “talk to us” through the mystical, hidden language of images, colors and symbols.



(L-R) FREE Artists Joe, Seaford; Anthony, Lindenhurst and Steven, Valley Stream in front of Painting “OCEAN WATER”

“Ascension” consists of wide ranging depictions of different elements of nature. Skies, land forms, water and other natural elements span across all the canvases displaying the artists’ connection to our world and the pathway to creativity. The artists worked through nine stages of creation.... from beginning sketches in pencil to learning how to handle pastels, water colors and finally acrylic paints.

While the artwork is beautiful to look at it is important to recognize the incredible depth of emotional release, intellectual learning and work skills development that took place over months of work with all FREE’s dedicated staff. It was their patience and unerring commitment to “stay the course” and believe that our artists could reach high to not only “see their healing image”, but also commit it to permanent form for all to share in their vision.

Much has been written about the healing power of Mindfulness Based Art Therapy and the creative process of spiritual self-expression, especially for individuals who may find it difficult to express their thoughts and feelings through spoken words alone. The images on view are a testament to this healing power, as FREE's artists faced the challenge to "break through" familiar modes of expression and embrace feelings of trust, hope and peace, offering them an alternative to chaos, conflict and fear. This project in creativity has helped fortify the groundwork for our artists' successful, ongoing contributions to our community through employment, volunteerism and cultural enhancement for us all.

All are encouraged to view the works and perhaps purchase a piece. The proceeds of sales go towards supporting the artist and their program.

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 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; 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.

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