



TIE LINE

Newsletter

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / CEO

Dear Friends,

Here at Astor, we are dedicated to serving children and families with care and respect, and the highest degree of professional service. The quality of the programs we provide, the important partnerships we form, and the leadership role we play in our local and global communities and the fields in which we work, all ensure that our children and families receive the best possible service. These efforts all lead toward the larger goal of bringing children and families hope, in the face of trauma and challenges, and for a brighter future!

I am delighted to share with you in this edition of Tie Line many exciting things that have occurred at Astor over the past several months. The

stories found in these pages highlight some of the impact we are having in the lives of children and families. As a world class organization we continuously strive to find and implement cutting-edge programs that strengthen families.

Found among the stories in this edition, are young philanthropists, who through their support, have made a real difference in our children's lives. These young people demonstrate that which we believe about the children we work with, that they can rise to their full potential and contribute to society in a positive way.

The entire Astor family is sad to note the passing in August of two philanthropists and long-time supporters who have made a tremendous difference in the lives of our

children: Mrs. Brooke Astor, wife of Captain Vincent Astor who founded the residence in Rhinebeck, NY; and Mrs. Jean Hogan Hickey, wife of Mr. Lawrence F. Hickey for whom The Lawrence F. Hickey Center for Child Development, our pre-school building in the Bronx, NY, is named. They will be dearly missed and hold a special place in our history.

In closing, I would like to express our continued appreciation to all of our supporters who give of their "time, talent and treasures". Your help is what makes it possible for us to continue to do our work.

Best Regards,

James McGuirk, Ph.D.
Executive Director/CEO

OUR MISSION

The Astor Home for Children promotes the emotional well being of children, youth and families through leadership in the development and provision of preventive and treatment-oriented behavioral health services and early childhood education.

IN MEMORIUM

ASTOR BIDS FAREWELL TO CHERISHED SUPPORTERS

MRS. JEAN HICKEY



In August, Jean Hogan Hickey, a great friend and supporter of The Astor Home for Children passed away. Together with her husband, Lawrence F.

Hickey, Mrs. Hickey gave generously in support of The Astor Home and to our mission of helping children in need. "She was the most selfless woman I ever knew. I wish each and every one of you had a mother like I had" says her daughter Magee Hickey. "She was highly intuitive, deeply spiritual and delicate, like fine bone china, yet fierce in her convictions and compassionate to the plight of the less fortunate" says daughter Jane Hickey Sexton.

Everyone at Astor was accustomed to seeing her at Larry's side when participating in Board events in Rhinebeck or in New York City or when visiting the children and staff of the Lawrence F. Hickey Center for Child Development, a therapeutic nursery program for emotionally disturbed preschoolers, located in the Bronx. This nursery was named for Larry because he was such a strong supporter of Astor's mission which champions the cause of emotionally disturbed children and their families.

Most of us knew that Jean wore big hats! We also knew her as the mother of Magee Hickey who is now on CBS reporting the news or hosting special programs on cable TV. As Jean spoke softly to the children or encouraged the staff at

the Hickey Center, we were unaware of Jean's accomplishments in the worlds of theater and dance. Who knew that she was a highly accomplished actress starring in more than 200 plays both on and off Broadway? She had also been a champion ballroom dancer and featured performer at the Amateur Comedy Club in New York. Who knew that she was a pacifist and a Pax Christi member? During the times that we spent with Jean, her focus was on the children and how wonderful and imaginative they each were. Her self-effacing manner always turned attention away from herself and toward others. We all miss Jean and remember her dearly for her generosity and grace.

MRS. BROOKE ASTOR



Noted philanthropist Brooke Astor, who passed away on August 13, was an important part of the original framework of The

Astor Home for Children, though she is mostly known for her philanthropic activities in New York City.

Mrs. Astor was the widow of Captain Vincent Astor, who originally started The Astor Home residence in Rhinebeck as a convalescent rest home for children. Mr. Astor later transferred the administration of The Astor Home to the Archdiocese of New York in 1953, but continued to support the organization for the rest of his life. After his death

in 1959, Mrs. Astor took up his cause by donating to The Astor Home through the Vincent Astor Foundation as well as serving as a trustee of The Astor Home for Children.

Mrs. Astor, known to her friends and associates as "Brooke" was a petite, energetic lady, who lived out her philosophy by being personally involved with her philanthropy. She once said, "I think the person whose money is involved should be personally involved."

Mrs. Astor spent much of her early childhood living abroad (in Panama, Peking, China, etc.). Her father served on many foreign assignments and was the Commandant of the Marine Corps and High Commissioner to Haiti with

the rank of Ambassador. Her early childhood impressions living abroad no doubt influenced her compassionate outlook toward the underprivileged.

Speaking at one of The Astor Home for Children celebrations, Mrs. Astor said, "This lovely boy who gave me this gift said 'with love and gratitude'...I give back that love and gratitude to everyone here".

The purpose of The Astor Home for Children has expanded since the Astors began the organization so many years ago; however, its mission still embodies the same basic principle that Mrs. Brooke Astor valued most - helping those in need. She will be missed and remembered for her legacy of caring.

YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS

YOUNG PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

TEEN DONATES 50 BIKE HELMETS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM IN POUGHKEEPSIE

Heather Peruffo of Poughkeepsie had only one request for her Sweet 16 Birthday party. No gifts for her! Instead, for each guest to bring a bicycle helmet to be donated to the children in the Astor Early Childhood Program.

Heather, with the help of her friends and family, donated nearly 50 bicycle helmets. Accompanied by her mother and grandmother, Heather visited Astor's Early Childhood Center on Delafield Street in Poughkeepsie and handed out helmets to one very delighted class of preschoolers.

"While other young girls would be opening gifts containing games, jewelry, pocketbooks, etc., Heather chose to ask her guests to donate not gifts for her but gifts for the less fortunate. Astor children and families at the Poughkeepsie site give a big Astor thanks to Heather, her family and friends!" says Marty Nichol, Director of Education at the Early Childhood Center.



Heather Peruffo distributes the helmets she donated to the children of the Early Childhood program

Heather reached out to Astor before her birthday in search of the best way her donation could meet the needs of the organization. Heather is an example of the many young people who are committed to the greater good – doing their part to impact communities! She will continue to partner with Astor through volunteer work.

CIA CHAPTER OF ETA SIGMA DELTA HONOR SOCIETY RAISES MONEY FOR ASTOR



Dr. James McGuirk accepts a donation from Grace Glahn of the Eta Sigma Delta Honor Society

The Eta Sigma Delta Honor Society of the Culinary Institute of America presented The Astor Home for Children with \$1,186.05 in donations raised during its first BBQ Cook-Off and Ice Cream Freeze-Off event held at the Institute on June 9th.

Grace Glahn, Vice President of the Eta Sigma Delta chapter at the Culinary Institute, along with society member Patrick Kenney, personally presented Astor's Executive Director Dr. James McGuirk with a check during their visit to Astor on June 21st.

Ms. Glahn says the society conducts events that not only encourage student involvement, but also benefit the area's community based organizations. The

Eta Sigma Delta Honor Society chose Astor as the beneficiary of their first BBQ Cook-Off and Ice Cream Freeze-Off fundraising event.

"We are honored to receive this donation and are thankful to the Eta Sigma Delta Honor Society for all the hard work they put into the BBQ Cook-Off and Ice Cream Freeze-Off event, on our behalf" says Dr. McGuirk.

Students, like members of the Eta Sigma Delta chapter, who are committed to making a difference in the lives of others, make the future seem a lot brighter!

CHILDREN ENJOY NEW PLAYGROUND AND CLASSROOMS AT THE WINGDALE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER

State Senator Vincent Leibell and Margaret Berger, Chapter Director of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of New York Tri-State, along with numerous friends of Astor and Ronald McDonald himself, gathered together on January 5th in order to celebrate generous donations made to the Wingdale Early Childhood Education Center. The center, run by the Astor Home, received \$15,000 in state grants to help make much-needed repairs to the playground, and another \$15,000 from the Ronald McDonald House Charities to equip and furnish a new classroom.

“The playground was really a safety issue; repairs were sorely needed” said Dr. James McGuirk, Executive Director/CEO, The Astor Home for Children. “...and, the new classroom will provide the best daycare and early childhood programs for employees of the Dover School District. This should assist in attracting quality teachers to the area.”

“Our greatest treasure is young people and it makes great economic and moral sense to help them out. I’m proud to participate.”

NY State Senator Vincent Leibel

Astor’s Early Childhood Education Center in Wingdale serves families throughout the Harlem Valley and provides services for those who may not be able to afford other programs for their children. There are currently 37 children in the Head Start program and 17 in the Early Head Start, along with 20 staff members. The Wingdale facility also offers GED and English classes to about 25 adults in collaboration with BOCES.



Sen. Vincent Leibell (l) and Margaret Berger join Ronald McDonald in presenting Dr. James McGuirk with a \$15,000 grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities.

“We have a great staff that is totally committed to the welfare of the children and their families” said Grace Caddell, center director of the Wingdale facility. “None of this could have happened if it wasn’t for community involvement.”

Beverly Allyn of the Dutchess County Health Department said Astor programs provide some of the best services in the area. “Astor is head and shoulders above any place when it comes to early intervention” she said.

ASTOR RECEIVES \$150,000 GRANT FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES

The Astor Home for Children received a \$150,000 grant from the Catholic Charities of The Archdiocese of New York for the replacement of the roofs of the Rhinebeck and Little Red School House (Bronx) locations, and to purchase a new billing system.

Astor was one of 20 Catholic Charities agencies in New York City and the Hudson Valley to benefit from a \$5 million grant, made possible by the Empire State Development Corporation, for Catholic Charities to be used to upgrade facilities and to improve the delivery of critical services to New Yorkers in need.

On June 26th, Sonia Barnes-Moorhead, Executive Vice President of the Astor Home for Children Foundation, accepted the grant award on behalf of Astor at a luncheon held in Dillon Hall at the New York Catholic Center in Manhattan. Ms. Barnes-Moorhead was presented with a construction hard hat; a symbol of the work ahead.

Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, Executive Director, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, praised Cardinal Egan for his efforts in securing the grant, and also expressed his gratitude to the administrations of Gov. Eliot Spitzer and former Gov. George Pataki for their support.

“I view the approval for this grant as recognition for the outstanding work that Catholic Charities agencies do for so many” says Cardinal Egan.

Dr. James McGuirk, Executive Director/CEO, The Astor Home for Children, said: “we are very thankful for this grant. At Astor, our focus is on providing the best possible care to our children and families in a safe, secure and pleasant environment. This grant will enhance our ability to do so”.

ASTOR'S EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINATED SERVICES INITIATIVE HAS MUCH TO CELEBRATE

The Astor Home for Children has received a \$120,000 grant (over two years) from the Dyson Foundation to go towards hiring a Bi-lingual Parent Infant Educator for the Early Childhood Coordinated Services Initiative program (ECCSI). The Bi-lingual Parent Infant Educator will work with children and their families to identify unmet needs, and to address those needs efficiently and effectively.

“We deeply appreciate Dyson’s support of the Bi-lingual Parent Infant Educator, whose work will be of great value to our community” says Dr. James McGuirk, Executive Director, The Astor Home for Children.

The ECCSI is a collaborative effort by Dutchess County government and community service agencies that seek to provide a comprehensive system of preventive care for children (ages zero to five).

Supported by a grant from the Dutchess County Department of Social Services, the primary goal of ECCSI is to create a comprehensive and coordinated system of community services dedicated to the healthy development of young children within their flourishing families. ECCSI allows families to participate voluntarily. This commitment offers them the opportunity to receive community-based support through prevention services at an earlier age, thereby reducing reliance on the social service system.

Members of ECCSI include: Astor Home for Children, Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Child Care Council of

Dutchess, Children’s Medical Group, Dutchess Community College, Dutchess County Chemical Dependency Treatment Services - Lexington Center for Recovery, Inc., Dutchess County Health Families, Dutchess County Department of Health, Dutchess County Department of Mental Hygiene, Dutchess County Department of Social Services, Dutchess

County Early Intervention, Grace Smith House, Inc., Hudson River Housing, Mental Health Association of Dutchess County, Mid Hudson Library System, Parents, United Way of Dutchess County, and Vassar Brothers Medical Center.

Mary Sontheimer, Assistant Director of Early Childhood Programs for Astor says, “I am impressed and heartened by the enthusiastic and

creative response from all participating agencies in Dutchess County who have worked together for the success of this initiative. ECCSI seeks to remove all barriers so that the youngest and most vulnerable county residents receive the support and nurturing they need”.

On October 23, 2007 at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel, ECCSI will hold a symposium entitled “Engaging Families of Young Children.” Dr. Mary McKay, Professor of Psychiatry and Community Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York will be presenting to managers, teachers, social workers and caseworkers from a variety of agencies. Dr. McKay will offer methods and strategies to successfully approach and engage individuals and families for intervention.

“An important lesson to draw from the entire literature on successful early interventions is that it is the social skills and motivation of the child that are more easily altered—not IQ. These social and emotional skills affect performance in school and in the workplace. We too often have a bias toward believing that only cognitive skills are of fundamental importance to success in life.”

James J. Heckman, PhD, Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences 2000

BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE RIDE FOR THE CHILDREN OF ASTOR

The thunder of motorcycles was heard throughout Dutchess County on August 12th as the Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) rode in their Back to School Backpack and Motorcycle Run, to benefit the children of Astor Home.

The bikers assembled at the Swartz Mart Gas Station in Hopewell Junction to begin their ride throughout Dutchess County, which concluded at The Astor Home in Rhinebeck. The donation in order to participate in the ride was a children’s backpack filled with back to school supplies, to be given to the residence children.

Upon their arrival at The Astor Home, the bikers enjoyed a barbecue lunch and music with the children and staff. The children judged several contests including “Best Bike in Show” and they cheered as the bikers competed in rider

ability events such as the “Slow Race” and the “Plank Race”. Bikers purchased tie-dyed bandanas handmade by the children and wore them with pride.

Bikers Against Child Abuse collected 58 backpacks at the event, and will purchase 17 more with additional proceeds raised thru raffles and other monetary donations. Loads of fun was had by all who attended. BACA and The Astor Home hope to collaborate on another event next year.



A motorcycle on display for judging at the Back to School Backpack Motorcycle Run

EVENTS CORNER

6TH ANNUAL DINNER



Dr. James McGuirk and Sister Rose Logan present the Sister Rose Logan Volunteer Services Award to the Ladies of Charity.

At our 6th Annual Dinner we were pleased to honor IBM and their employees, and the Ladies of Charity of Northern Dutchess. The event was held on April 27, 2007 at the Dutchess Golf and Country Club.

Sheila Appel, Corporate Community Relations Manager, accepted the Louise Marillac Public Services Award on behalf of IBM. IBM has provided us with technological and educational aids, as well as financial support for the Early Childhood Training Institute. IBM Employees were also honored for their years of volunteering at Astor as part of IBM's "We Care" program.

The Ladies of Charity of Northern Dutchess were awarded the Sister Rose Logan Volunteer Service Award for the charitable work they've done for the children of Astor over the past 25 years. The Ladies provide help to those in need and bring cheer to the lives of Astor's children and their families.

The dinner was followed by a live auction conducted by Michelle Taylor of 92.1 LITE FM. Included in the auction were 2 Caribbean resort trips.

9TH ANNUAL STENBERG CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT



Honored guests Brian Giorgis (l) and Megan Gebbia with Dr. James McGuirk

The 9th Annual Stenberg Cup Golf Tournament was held on June 14, 2007 at the Dutchess Golf and Country Club. Brian Giorgis, Head Coach of the Marist Women's Basketball Team and Megan Gebbia, Assistant Head Coach, were the tournament's honored guests.

The players were treated to a barbeque lunch and enjoyed perfect golfing weather. First Place prize was won by the Astor employee team with a score of 58. Second Place was won by team Brie Gallagher with a score of 59, and Third Place went to team Kosco with a score of 62. The contest for Longest Drive was won by Ron Alindogam and Lisa Edgerton. The winners of the Closest to the Pin contest were Maurice Blue and Lynne Silva.

After the tournament, the players were served cocktails and a buffet dinner. Golfers received photos of their teams in engraved wooden photo plaques courtesy of Astor's photo plaque sponsors: Rose & Kiernam, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York and M&T Bank.

Raffle drawings and a live auction were led by Mark Bolger of STAR 93.3 FM, and included sports memorabilia items, several weekend stays at hotels in New England and a Caribbean resort trip.

EMPLOYEE NEWS

PSYCHOLOGIST PRESENTS AT CONFERENCE ON RACIAL DISPARITIES IN HEALTH CARE



Jamilla Codrington, Ph.D., Assistant Psychologist (Bronx, NY) served as one of the panelist for the symposium

"The Role of Black Psychologists in Reducing Health Disparities: The Missing Link" at the 39th annual convention for the Association of Black Psychologists in Houston, Texas. The panel consisted of Dr. Codrington and two other members from the New York chapter of the Association of Black Psychologists. Dr. Codrington's presentation focused on innovative strategies within clinical practice, training, public policy and research that would position psychologists at the forefront of the discussion around reducing health disparities within the African American community. Dr. Codrington also presented a holistic and culturally appropriate educational outreach program addressing the mental health and medical needs of high risk populations within the African American community.

NEW SENIOR

In January, Melinda Storey Weisberg joined the Astor Home for Children staff as Director of Strategic Initiatives and Public Policy. In this position she advocates, develops and strengthens key relationships with policymakers and provides direction and oversight for new initiatives in the agency.

TEACHER OF THE MONTH HONORED



Teacher of the Month Beth Van Fleet with Joe Daily of 92.1 LITE FM and Dr. James McGuirk

Beth Van Fleet, a 7th grade teacher from The Astor Home for Children Day Treatment Center was awarded Teacher of the Month, for April by LITE-FM and Davis Furniture. Mrs. Van Fleet was nominated by one of her students, and the award was presented in person, by D.J. Joe Daily from LITE-FM.

Each month during the 2006 – 2007 school year a Hudson Valley teacher is honored and recognized for their accomplishment, dedication and commitment to their students. For this honor, they receive gift certificates from area businesses (i.e., spa visits, furniture, flowers, etc.).

“Beth exemplifies what is wonderful about the teachers in our program – an ability to let the children know they are valued and accepted while challenging them to achieve and succeed at school, at home, and in the community” says Dr. Annie Scott, Program Director, Astor Day Treatment Center.

STAFF MEMBERS

Sonia Barnes-Moorhead joined the staff of Astor as **Executive Vice President of The Astor Home for Children Foundation** in January. Sonia oversees all fundraising and communications activities for Astor.

DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL TRAINING TRAVELS TO PROMOTE PLAY THERAPY



Athena A. Drewes, PsyD, Director of Clinical Training and APA Internship has spent the last few months traveling the world, as

lecturer and teacher in the techniques of play therapy. In April, she visited Tokyo, Japan (and surrounding cities) and met with Dr. Akiko Ohnogi, Director of the newly formed Japan Association for Play Therapy. She then traveled on a seven day tour of Taiwan where she was invited to meet with play therapists and to teach several play therapy techniques to over 100 students, therapists, teachers and nurses.

In June, Dr. Drewes was invited by Dr. June Feder, Chair of the New York State Psychological Association's Disaster Response Network, to join a special team of psychologists and attend a conference in New Orleans on “Helping Children Heal After Disaster”. The American Federation of Teachers invited the New York State Psychological Association to present a full day conference to 250 school personnel. Athena and her team focused on children's trauma responses and resiliency, and then offered techniques to help teachers and administrators work with children's reactions.

Later in June, Dr. Drewes presented at the 7th Annual Wroxtton England International Play Therapy Study Group, created and organized by Dr. Charles Schaefer. The group was

comprised of 25 play therapists invited from around the world to present on a variety of play therapy treatment topics. Athena teamed up with Sharon Pearce from England and Akiko Ohnogi from Japan to present “The Healing Power of Play After Natural and Human-Made Disasters”. At the end of June, she then went to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she was invited to present at the 7th Annual World Congress on PTSD. Her presentation was titled “School-based Play Therapy and Trauma”.

Dr. Drewes was also the featured author of the Alumni Bookshelf, Pace University (Pace Magazine, Spring 2007) with her co-edited book Cultural Issues in Play Therapy as the featured title. In addition, her in-depth symposium

Play therapy is a recognized therapeutic intervention using the therapeutic power of play and play-based approaches in the treatment of children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral problems. These approaches include use of symbolic toys, and may also include expressive arts, art therapy, music and drama therapy and storytelling.

“Therapeutic Play with Children Following Natural and Human-made Disasters and Trauma” was accepted by the American Psychological Association for their August 2007, San Francisco Conference. Dr. Drewes will Chair this event, and present along with Dr. Janine Shelby (CA), Dr.

Anne Stewart (VA) and Dr. Joseph White (Austin, TX). Dr. Drewes has also just contributed a chapter entitled “Applying Play Therapy in Schools” to be published this fall in *School-Based Mental Health: A Practitioner's Guide to Comparative Practices* by Christner and Mennuti, to be published by Routledge Publishing (Taylor & Francis Group) in the fall. Looking forward, she will be presenting two workshops in October at the Association for Play Therapy conference in Hollywood, CA, as she concludes her six-year term serving on the Board of Directors of APT.

DID YOU KNOW...

- ▶ **Astor** serves over 6,000 children, adolescents and their families, annually.
- ▶ **Astor** is located in Rhinebeck, NY and in multiple locations throughout the Hudson Valley and in New York City.
- ▶ For over 50 years, **Astor** has offered nationally-acclaimed programs.
- ▶ **Astor** led the creation of the Dutchess County Zero to Three Partnership.
- ▶ **Astor** is accredited by the Joint Commission.
- ▶ In 2005, **Astor** opened ASTOR at Highbridge, a new children's mental health clinic in the Bronx, NY.
- ▶ **Astor** is recognized as a National School of Excellence by the US Department of Education.
- ▶ **Astor** provides early childhood, community-based and residential mental health services.

SAVE THE DATE!

OCTOBER 14, 2007

CYCLING EVENT 2007

NOVEMBER 30, 2007

SUGAR PLUM PREVIEW,
ASTOR RHINEBECK

DECEMBER 1, 2007

ST. NICK CRAFT FAIR,
ASTOR RHINEBECK

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.ASTORSERVICES.ORG OR CONTACT US BY EMAIL: ASTOR@ASTORSERVICES.ORG



HOME FOR CHILDREN

...Because Every Child Deserves a Childhood

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