



HOME FOR CHILDREN

Executive Administration

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 3, 2007

Astor's Children in the Early Childhood Program in Poughkeepsie Received Donation

Rhinebeck, NY – Children in Astor's Early Childhood Program on Delafield Street in Poughkeepsie received a large donation of toys and safety equipment in honor of the late Heather Lee Camara.

On Thursday, September 27th, the extended family (grandparents, siblings, and friends), of Heather Lee Camara presented the children with a gift of 20 tricycles, 12 wagons and 42 helmets, in partnership with Toys-R-Us, Target and Budget Rental (all located in Poughkeepsie).

The Mattes/Camara family lost Heather to an ATV accident over Memorial Day weekend in 2006. Heather's family and friends have established the Heather Lee Camara Memorial Fund in order to honor Heather's memory with scholarships and through local donations.

Heather's many friends gathered at Kathy Mattes' house, Heather's mother, two consecutive Fridays last month, and assembled the wagons and tricycles prior to distribution. The deluxe red wagons were a big hit among the children. "We wanted to put the money where Heather would want it to go, and Heather loved children... on behalf of my entire family, I would like to thank all of the donors to the Heather Lee Camara Memorial Fund – without their support this would not be possible," says Kathy Mattes. The fund has made annual scholarships available at BOCES Career & Technical Institute and Franklin D. Roosevelt High School, in addition to making large donations to other local organizations.

The Astor Home for Children promotes the well being of children, adolescents and their families through a variety of programs, including the Early Childhood Program in Poughkeepsie. Astor's current range of services to families include: residential treatment, therapeutic foster family care, early childhood programs and community based services. For additional information about The Astor Home for Children please visit www.astorservices.org or call The Astor Home for Children Foundation at (845) 871-1117.

Kathy Mattes gives a wagon ride to one of the children of the Astor Early Childhood Program

