



## HOME FOR CHILDREN

*Executive Administration*

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **The Astor Home for Children held its Annual Children's Awards Ceremony**

**Rhinebeck, NY** - The Astor Home for Children's Residential Programs in Rhinebeck, and its award winning special education school, The Astor Learning Center, held its Annual Children's Awards Ceremony on Thursday, June 19, 2008. This Awards Ceremony celebrates the achievements of all the children in the Residential Programs by honoring each child with an award. Some children received multiple recognitions, including awards for academic achievements, improvement in social skills, and athletics.

The Ceremony climaxed with Principal Sue Keegan presenting Ramel Jackson with both the Student of the Year Award and the Golden Sneaker Award for top male student athlete. Beatriz Vides, Director of Child Care, was the recipient of the Joel Robert Crenshaw Award, presented by David Crenshaw, Ph.D., member of Astor's Board of Directors. Recipients of this award best exemplify the "Spirit of Astor": caring, resiliency, compassion and commitment to others.

The Ceremony, held outdoors under a tent on a beautiful day, was attended by several hundred people, including family members, former students, Astor's staff and Board members. The children, families and friends enjoyed a barbecue after the Ceremony.

"This Awards Ceremony is a reminder to all of us as to why at Astor we believe in the importance of focusing and celebrating each child's strength. The joy and pride I saw on their faces as they received their awards was priceless. The staff worked very hard to make it a very special day for the children, families and friends, and I thank them all," says John Kelly, Assistant Executive Director, The Astor Home for Children, Residential Programs.

*The Astor Home for Children, as it has since 1953, promotes the well-being of children, adolescents and their families through a range of programs that prevent and treat emotional problems and facilitate healthy development. Now serving over 6,500 children and families annually, Astor's current range of services to families in the Mid-Hudson Valley and the Bronx include: Residential Treatment, Therapeutic Foster Family Care, Early Childhood Programs, and Community Based Mental Health and Educational Services. For additional information about The Astor Home for Children, please visit their website at [www.astorservices.org](http://www.astorservices.org) or call The Astor Home for Children Foundation at (845) 871-1117.*