

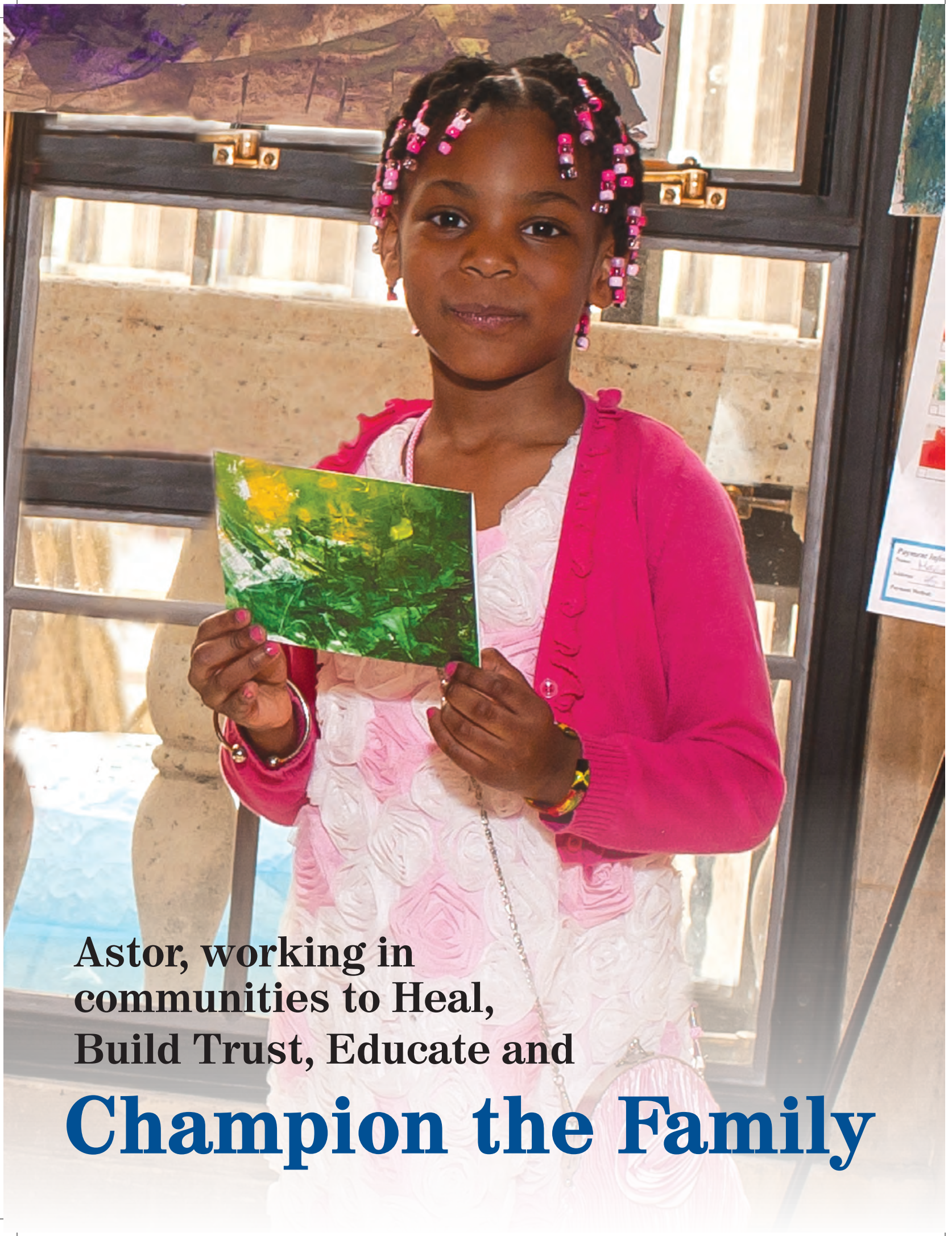


**ASTOR**  
SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2011-2012

*...Because every child deserves a childhood*



Astor, working in  
communities to Heal,  
Build Trust, Educate and  
**Champion the Family**

# Our mission is to provide behavioral and educational services in a caring environment where children and their families find strength, healing, hope and trust.




Photo by Gerald Feart, Photographer

Dear Friends,

The agency mission highlighted above provides the foundation for our efforts on behalf of children and families, especially those most vulnerable because of poverty, family circumstance or emotional disturbances. When you look at some of the core words that define our mission, you see Educate, Trust, Hope and Healing. At Astor, you see these words in action every day by countless numbers of dedicated staff, volunteers, board members and donors - all who have worked with us to insure every child gets the childhood they deserve.

I am proud to present to you our annual report. In the following pages you will learn more about how we are making a significant impact on the lives of thousands of kids and families - work you kindly make possible through your support. I hope you will be inspired to continue your involvement with us.

Thank you for all you do to assist the children at Astor.

  
James McGuirk, Ph.D.  
Executive Director / CEO



*“The mental health of all children in all settings must be our focus, rather than a myopic focus on the needs of a small subset of individuals served through isolated and stand alone ‘mental health programs.’ The promotion and maintenance of mental health is a universal concern for all individuals as it is directly linked to future physical health, well-being, longevity and productivity.”*

*—From the NY Children’s Plan*



Healing begins with  
**Safety**

/sāftē/

Children need to feel safe and secure in their environment. They need to feel protected from threats and danger. When this happens, the healing begins...

# Astor provides a safe environment where traumatized children get to heal the deep damage done by abuse and neglect.

## The Impact of Healing: A Note from a Former Residential Student

I was a student at Astor Home for Children back in the 1950s before they started accepting young girls. I had a lot of good years in my life, and I believe I can thank the folks who raised me at Astor - like Sister Doherty and Nancy Brown. Ms. Brown was like a nanny to me. She always baked our birthday cakes. There were many others at Astor who helped shape my life.

I will be turning 60 years old this year and as I have said, many of them were good years. I was an EMT-D on a volunteer ambulance for 7-8 years; spent some time in college; worked in the drug and alcohol field for almost 18 years; and at present, I am a caretaker for a summer resort.

*I guess I just wanted to say  
“Thank You” to all the folks  
who truly gave me a very  
memorable childhood!*



### Residential Treatment Programs (RHINEBECK, NY)

The Residential Treatment staff work through an array of intensive programs, designed to heal children ages 5 – 13 with serious behavioral and emotional difficulties. They take pride in creating a nurturing environment for children who must live away from their families while they receive treatment. Our children experience individual therapy tailored to meet their unique needs. In addition, the children attend The Astor Learning Center, an award-winning school.

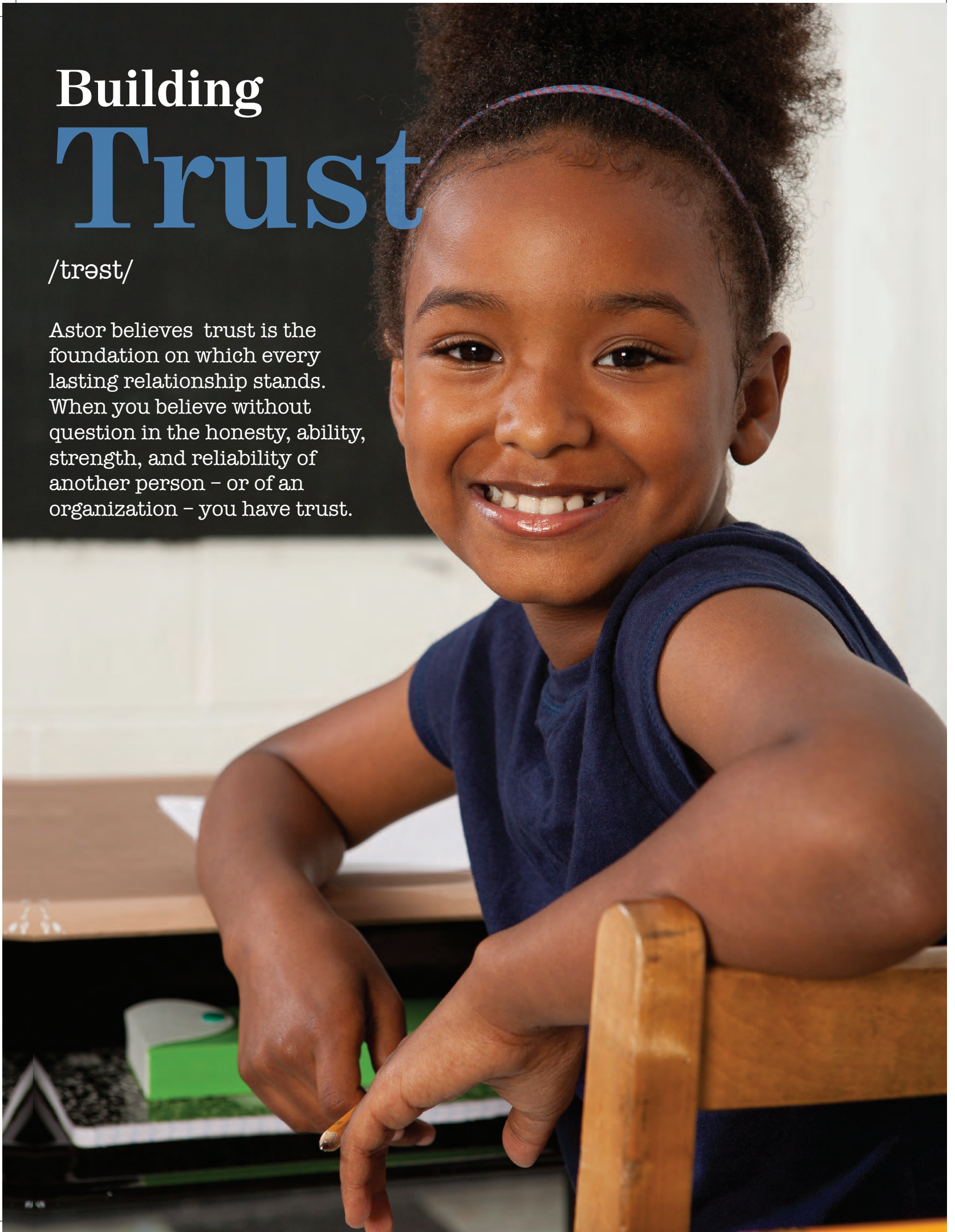
- A full-time family advocate is available to provide support to each child and to connect families to resources in their local communities.
- New state-of-the-art living facilities were completed for children in our Residential Treatment Programs.

Residential Treatment Programs	Total Served
Residential Treatment Facility	29
Residential Treatment Center	62
The Astor Learning Center/Day Program	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>

# Building Trust

/trəst/

Astor believes trust is the foundation on which every lasting relationship stands. When you believe without question in the honesty, ability, strength, and reliability of another person – or of an organization – you have trust.



## Many of the children and families we help at Astor are often denied access to conventional programs and services. As a result, many are at risk of slipping further out of reach.

At the core of our work at Astor is trust in all we do! Our committed staff focus on a “whatever-it-takes” attitude to ensure our children receive the type of help they need. They build trust with families on their terms.

“Each year in the U.S., thousands of teenagers commit suicide. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15 to 24 year-olds, and the sixth leading cause of death for 5 to 14 year-olds.”

—American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

### Vincent’s Story: A Strength-Based Approach

Vincent resides with his mother, stepfather and his stepfather’s son. Vincent had a volatile relationship with his stepfather for six years. He refused to be in any environment where he would be in close proximity to his stepfather.

Vincent had inconsistent contact with his father who resides in Florida and has AIDS related to a blood disorder. The family was affected by this relationship. Vincent displayed significant anger and aggressive behaviors. He has had hospitalizations due to his out-of-control behaviors and was prescribed medication to address ADHD and depression.

Astor’s Home-Based Services/Adolescent Intensive Case Management Program (AICM) began working with Vincent in October 2011. He was tolerant of the program but had significant anger. Each week our AICM case worker focused on goals and suggestions to help Vincent strengthen his relationships and decrease his anger. During many sessions, it was eventually revealed that the medical condition of Vincent’s father caused Vincent considerable concern and fear he would lose his father. He wanted to develop a relationship with his dad. Vincent’s case worker did not give up on him. She concentrated on his strengths. She observed Vincent was a compassionate young man who had tremendous potential and insight and possessed the willingness to change. Vincent, with positive feedback from his case worker, became receptive and worked on goals and suggestions each week. Gradually, positive changes became evident. Vincent received emotional rewards from his progress and the positive reinforcement encouraged perseverance.

Vincent now visits with his father during school vacations. He has made amends with his stepfather. He is doing very well academically, had a job for the summer 2012, and his anger and aggression are no longer an issue.

*When asked how he feels after five months, his response was, “...awesome!”*

### Community-Based Behavioral Health and Prevention Services

(HUDSON VALLEY AND THE BRONX)

When a child experiences emotional or behavioral difficulties at home, in school or in the community, a parent may look to Astor’s Community-Based Behavioral Health and Prevention Services in the Hudson Valley and the Bronx, for support and assistance. Many of the children we assist are at risk of being removed from their homes.

- Astor develops individualized prevention education and support to families through clinics, in the home and in school settings.
- Services include early intervention, assessment, advocacy, counseling, referral and case management.

Hudson Valley Community-Based Behavioral Health and Prevention Programs	Total Served
Counseling Programs	2,081
Community-Based Services/High Risk	
Service Coordination	443
Day Treatment & Adolescent Services	575
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,099</b>

Bronx Community-Based Behavioral Health and Prevention Programs	Total Served
Prevention Programs	135
Outpatient Clinics	1,381
Day Treatment	326
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,842</b>

**Preparing children for success begins in the early years.**

# Educate

/ejə-kāt/

**Success in Learning equals Success in Life!**

At Astor, we believe giving children the space and the tools to learn and to express themselves are essential for their success.



# Early Childhood Programs: The Importance of Involving Fathers in the Early Years

When parents were asked in a Fall 2011 survey what the family engagement focus should be, they unanimously identified male involvement in their child's education. Astor's Poughkeepsie Early Childhood Programs quickly went to work to meet this need.



All males involved in children's lives—including fathers, grandfathers, brothers, stepfathers, uncles and guardians, were invited to a breakfast to socialize, share tips on raising children and plan for future meetings and topic ideas. As a result, regular male involvement activities and discussion meetings were held at the Poughkeepsie Center throughout the year. These gatherings incorporated strategies to improve male involvement in the education of their children at home, school and the community.

Astor Early Childhood Programs identified and responded to parents' requests for more male involvement in the education of their children. And what a successful year it was!

At an evening meeting, a Children's Resource Specialist discussed how reading with a child can enhance a bond and provide wonderful teaching opportunities. Several males signed up for library cards at the end of the meeting! Literacy activities, such as reading a book with their child, are one way males can become more involved.

Males learned how they can participate in their child's education at school by attending teacher conferences, participating in home visits, volunteering in the classroom, or helping out at center functions. They also learned how to be important male figures to the children in the community by playing or coaching a sport with their child on a regular basis.

The focus of a spring "play date" at the center was to be involved in community groups, such as places of worship, or by taking time for family outings to local places. There was a lot of fun, laughter and special bonding! It was a magical time as both males and children built self-esteem and learned more about each other.

For over 35 years, Astor has been a leader in the field of Early Childhood Development. Our philosophy is deeply rooted in providing quality, and comprehensive childcare. Our Early Childhood Programs not only benefit children, but entire families.

## Early Childhood Programs (HUDSON VALLEY AND THE BRONX)

Astor Early Childhood Programs include:

- The Federal Early Head Start and Head Start Programs in the Hudson Valley serve children from low-income families.
- Astor's Lawrence F. Hickey Center for Child Development in the Bronx is a therapeutic, early-intervention program serving children with behavioral and emotional needs.

Childhood Programs	Total Served
Head Start	772
Early Head Start	365
Universal Pre Kindergarten (Daycare)	100
1-8-2	28
Special Class Integrated Setting (SCIS)	47
Therapeutic Preschool (TP)	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,329</b>

*Note: Children in the 1-8-2, SCIS and TP Programs are also served by Head Start.*

Lawrence F. Hickey Center for Child Development (Bronx)	Total Served
Lawrence F. Hickey Center for Child Development	71
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>

# Donors

Astor would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to every individual, business and organization that supported our work this fiscal year. You are all indeed our heroes! Each and every gift directly benefits our work to help change the lives of the children we serve. Please know that we worked hard to ensure the accuracy of the donor list below. If we inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name, please call (845) 871-1116.

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 Ms. Norine Hearty  
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 Mr. & Mrs. John Hocter  
 Hoffman Car Wash  
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 Hudson Valley Renegades

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John Jay High School  
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Ms. Kelly Jones  
Ms. Cammie Jones  
Ms. Susan Kavy  
Ms. Kelley Kertalis  
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Ms. Christi Battistoni  
Ms. Andrea Berger  
Ms. Christine Billy  
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**Virginia & Adolfo Farias**

Mrs. Margaret Howe

**Perry & Amelia Hamilton**

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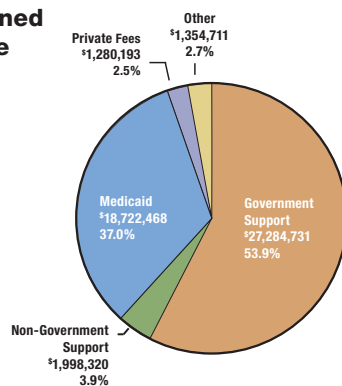


# 2011 - 2012 Financial Highlights

(Unaudited)

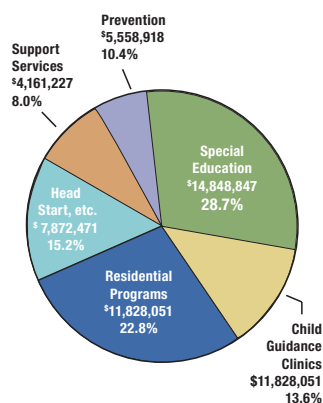
## Astor Services for Children & Families/ The Astor Learning Center The Children's Foundation of Astor

### Combined Income



Combined Income 2011-2012	\$ Amount	%
Government Support	27,284,731	53.9%
Non-Government Support	1,998,320	3.9%
Medicaid	18,722,468	37.0%
Private Fees	1,280,193	2.5%
Other	1,354,711	2.7%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 50,640,423</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Combined Expenses



Combined Expenses 2011-2012	\$ Amount	%
Residential Programs	11,828,051	22.8%
Child Guidance Clinics	7,019,617	13.6%
Special Education	14,848,847	28.7%
Head Start/ Early Head Start	7,872,471	15.2%
Prevention	6,069,080	11.7%
Support Services	4,161,227	8.0%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 51,799,293</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

# Leading the Way



Without the committed Board Members, Executive Team, Staff at Astor, and countless volunteers, the success of our programs and services would not be possible. Astor wishes to thank and recognize all of the individuals for their hard work and dedication.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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& Families / Astor Learning  
Center

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*Associate Executive Director,  
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## **Mission**

**To provide behavioral and educational services in a caring environment where children and their families find strength, healing, hope and trust!**

## **Vision**

**To see children meet life's challenges, pursue their dreams and reach their full potential.**





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P.O. Box 5005  
Rhinebeck, NY 12572

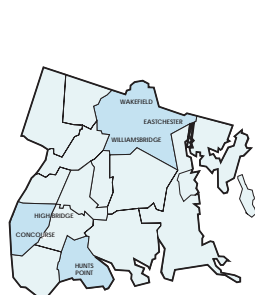


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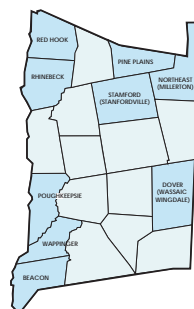


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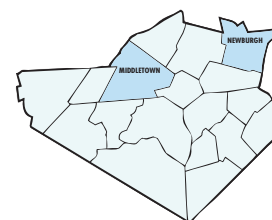
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**(845) 871-1000**  
[www.astorservices.org](http://www.astorservices.org)



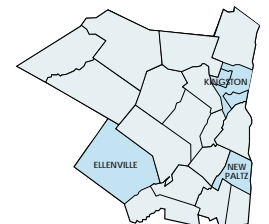
Bronx County Programs



Dutchess County Programs



Orange County Programs



Ulster County Programs