



**THANKS**

for giving our children

*a childhood!*

*This could not have  
happened without you!*

**2013-2014  
Annual Report**



**Astor**  
SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

*... because every child deserves a childhood.*



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They advocate on behalf of our children and families. Through their hard work and dedication, they impact the lives of our children and we thank them!

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Astor Services for Children & Families

## THANK YOU FOR BRINGING US

# Color!

*This is not your ordinary  
painting activity.*


It is one of the ways we find the best in our kids and help them express themselves through painting. It is Paint What You Feel! Don't paint a bird; paint what it feels like to fly!

This is an example of how we work each and every day to bring out the imagination and creativity in our children, many of whom are dealing with unimaginable trauma. We give them the space to express themselves, and the results are some beautiful portraits of them expressing not only their traumas but their hopes and dreams.

We thank you, the donors, for giving us the opportunity to provide behavioral and educational services in a caring environment where our children and their families find strength, healing, hope and trust.

Because of your support in 2013-2014, we were able to heal and educate over 7,000 children. Equally as important, we were there for them every step of the way, holding their hands as they navigated their journey.

We invite you to continue to help us give each of our children a childhood that is filled with lots of fond memories.

  
James McGuirk, PhD.  
Executive Director/CEO

## CHANGING - Lives - one child, one family at a time....

**7,690**  
Lives changed in 2013 – 2014

**158,000**  
Lives changed since 1953

Student painting shown at left, entitled

### *Leaving Astor*

"This is about Leaving Astor. It's like you're going through a window and there is this storm coming outside but there is a path to follow, so **everything is going to be OK.**"

—DEVON AND JAYQUAN



# THE Ugly Stick

*It is not what you think!*

It's actually just a marketing ploy, a clever, memorable name for an affordable fishing rod. However, in the hands of Griffin, one of our children at the residential treatment center in Rhinebeck, it's a mark of normalcy: a souvenir of childhood, like old football helmets, Legos, and in-line skates.

It is a wand to claim a bit of a Huckleberry Finn Summer. Griffin proudly showed his Ugly Stick, with all the excitement only a kid can muster, for an extruded piece of plastic. But in his hands, it's a wand to lure the rainbow trout from their eddies and claim his small chunk of a wonderful summer.

As you look around Griffin's room, it could have been any kid's, anywhere. But this room was lit with his joy at spending a balmy summer in the Hudson River Valley and decorated with his trophies of fun. He talks about his love of fishing and the catch he had snared. Although Griffin has mental health challenges, you realize he was telling and showing us something we too often forget: the children that we serve are basically and fundamentally just kids. The overarching goal of Astor is to give them – to guarantee them – the childhood they so well deserve. This is what we give the children who come into our care: the simple joy of a child like Griffin and his Ugly Stick. We want each of our children to delight in the summer and be able to experience the simple everyday pleasure of being a child!

[www.astorservices.org](http://www.astorservices.org)

*Fewer than*  
**34% of adults**  
**and 50% of children**  
with a diagnosable mental  
disorder receive mental health  
services in a given year.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES,  
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Help us  
*grow*  
Support our work.

INVITE *friends*  
to OUR EVENTS!

[www.astorservices.org](http://www.astorservices.org)



*1 in 5 children,*  
either currently  
or at some point during  
their life, have had a  
seriously debilitating  
**mental disorder.**  
(NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH)

**Suicide**  
is a serious public health  
problem that affects  
even young people.  
  
For youth between the  
*ages of 10 & 24,*  
suicide is the third leading  
cause of death. It results  
in approximately 4,600  
lives lost each year.  
(CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL  
AND PREVENTION)

*More than 16  
million children*  
**were poor in 2012.**  
Over 40 percent of them  
lived in extreme poverty.  
(CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND)



## THERAPY

# Dogs

*provide comfort, a sense of safety, and  
keep children calm. As such, we make  
sure that our children are given the  
opportunity for this type of comfort...*

There was one child in our Residential Program in Rhinebeck whose behavior was unpredictable. Although he was apprehensive at first to even pet Lina, one of the therapy dogs, now he waits every week for her arrival.

Lina's presence helps him feel more relaxed and open to talking. During group sessions with Lina, staff are able to introduce and discuss topics the children can relate to, but that are not directly focused on their lives. For example, they might discuss what it means to be a "rescued dog."

[www.astorservices.org](http://www.astorservices.org)

**Here's to**  
making our next  
Fiscal Year  
an even greater

*Success!*

**WE INVITE YOU TO**

*visit our programs*





**Lives**  
*impacted*  
 through our programs that

**TEACH, HEAL,  
& STRENGTHEN**

*kids and families*

“Research is clear that *poverty is the single greatest threat to children’s well-being.*”

But effective public policies – to make work pay for low-income parents and to provide high-quality early care and learning experiences for their children – can make a difference. Investments in the most vulnerable children are also critical.”

National Center for Children in Poverty  
(Page Last Updated: February 2014)

**TWO SETS OF SNEAKERS**  
**Kept Together**  
*by You!*

Just imagine brothers, Anthony, 13 and Jacob, nine years old, who came to our residential program after suffering much trauma in their home; so much so that both parent rights were terminated. Imagine these young siblings’ history was marred by neglect and the emotional wounds they had to endure.

Fast forward three years since they have been in our program. Anthony now plays on the Little League baseball team and loves to paint. And Jacob just donated one of his cars so that “another child can also use it.” According to one of their caseworkers, “Anthony and Jacob, while they have good and bad days, they have the biggest hearts!”

It is because of your commitment to Astor that we have been able to provide Anthony and Jacob with a “home” where they have thrived through the support, love, care and patience they receive. Anthony and Jacob are up for adoption and we are committed to finding them the perfect home so they can continue to grow to become healthy young men.

[www.astorservices.org](http://www.astorservices.org)



Early Childhood Programs (HUDSON VALLEY)	
	Total Served
Head Start	829
Early Head Start	338
Universal Pre Kindergarten (Daycare)	70
1-8-2	34
Special Class Integrated Setting (SCIS)	81
Therapeutic Preschool (TP)	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,371</b>
Note: Children in the 1-8-2, SCIS and TP Programs are also served by Head Start.	
Hudson Valley Community-Based Behavioral Health and Prevention Services	
	Total Served
Counseling Programs	2,718
Community-Based Services/High Risk	
Service Coordination	579
Day Treatment & Adolescent Services	563
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,860</b>
Bronx Community-Based Behavioral Health and Prevention Services	
	Total Served
Lawrence F. Hickey Center for	
Child Development	74
Prevention Programs	64
Outpatient Clinics	1,897
Day Treatment	308
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,343</b>
Residential Treatment Programs (RHINEBECK)	
	Total Served
Residential Treatment Facility (RTF)	29
Residential Treatment Center (RTC)	66
Day Program	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>
Note: Children in these programs attend The Astor Learning Center	



*“Poverty can  
impede children’s  
ability to learn*

*and contribute to social,  
emotional, and behavioral  
problems. Poverty also can  
contribute to poor health  
and mental health.*

*Risks are greatest for  
children who experience  
poverty when they are  
young and/or experience  
deep and persistent poverty.”*

National Center for Children in Poverty  
(Page Last Updated: February 2014)

# HELPING

*Our Children Reach New*

## Heights

Nathaniel, a beautiful, kind, three-year-old in our Head Start\* program, is in foster care after being abandoned by his family. He was extremely shy. He also had a lot of anxiety and fear when he came to us. Our teachers and family advocate worked both with Nathaniel and his foster mom to address his issues.

After the care, love and support Nathaniel and his foster mom received, he is now ready for Kindergarten. Nathaniel will soon be adopted by his foster parents and is a happy, confident preschooler.

One day during class, his teacher went around the room and asked the children why they were special. Nathaniel replied, “Because my (foster) mother loves me!” His mom tells us that she, Nathaniel and her entire family are forever grateful for the support they received through our Head Start Program.

\*Head Start and Early Head Start are federal programs that provide comprehensive child development services to poverty level children and their families. The focus throughout the program is relationship-based, strength-based and parent inclusive.

[www.astorservices.org](http://www.astorservices.org)



**Help us**  
*spread the word*

about the impact we are  
making on the lives of  
children and families.

**How?**  
Become an Astor  
**AMBASSADOR.**  
*Spread the word!*



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MAGAZINE

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www.astorservices.org



Mission

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

Core Values

Respect • Hope • Quality Partnership • Integrity

Vision

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

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Astor Services for Children & Families  
The Astor Learning Center  
The Children’s Foundation of Astor

Combined Income 2013- 2014	\$ Amount	%
Government Support	27,150,822	49.5%
Non-Government Support	2,384,946	4.3%
Medicaid	19,935,917	36.3%
Private and Insurance Fees	2,502,873	4.6%
Other	2,876,832	5.2%
Total Income	54,851,390	100.0%

Combined Expenses 2013 - 2014	\$ Amount	%
Residential Programs	13,759,400	24.4%
Child Guidance Clinics	9,066,573	16.1%
Special Education	14,797,201	26.2%
Head Start/ Early Head Start	7,069,758	12.5%
Prevention	6,539,908	11.6%
Support Services	5,148,570	9.1%
Total Expenses	56,381,410	100.0%



A child wearing a vibrant rainbow-colored jacket and blue pants is riding a blue bicycle. The child's hands are on the handlebars, and their feet are on the pedals. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with greenery.

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child deserves a childhood*

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