

Contact Us

For more information, or to make a referral to Bronx Community-Based Health and Prevention Services, contact:

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*...Because every child
deserves a childhood.*

Executive Director/CEO

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ASTOR
SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Bronx Community-Based Behavioral Health and Prevention Services



*...Because every child
deserves a childhood.*



"Of all injuries children suffer, none are as painful as the crushing of their spirit."

- *Dr. David Crenshaw, Retired
Clinical Director of Astor Services
for Children & Families and
member of the Board of Directors*

A Tradition of Excellence...

Astor Services for Children & Families, 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 6,000 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 Behavioral Health and Prevention Services.



Bronx Programs

Astor's programs in the Bronx provide out-patient services to seriously emotionally disturbed children and support families in their efforts to develop and strengthen the skills needed to keep their children at home. Astor provides services through children's outpatient clinics, day treatment, a therapeutic nursery, family support, preventative services and a school-based initiative.

Clinic-Based Services

Astor's Clinic-Based Services help children with a wide range of emotional and behavioral problems as well as those who are the victims of child abuse, sexual abuse, trauma, and domestic violence. Astor staff work closely with each family to help them identify their strengths and to engage them in the development of a treatment plan that will build on these assets and develop new skills. In addition, children who are in foster care or who are returning to the community from foster care, residential placements or inpatient psychiatric hospitals are eligible to receive services.

In 2007, Astor was selected by the New York State Office of Mental Health to implement its newest initiative, the "Child and Family Clinic Plus" Program in the Bronx and in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Child and Family Clinic Plus works closely with families to help with early identification of emotional needs through free voluntary screening in community settings such as schools and health centers. Screening is available only with the signed consent of a parent or guardian.

Prevention Services

Children and families are referred to Astor's Prevention Program after a finding of child abuse or neglect or if they have been identified as "at-risk" for child abuse and neglect. The goal of the program is to prevent children from entering the foster care system. Parents are provided with one-to-one or group counseling, home visits, and referrals to special services that support parental skills development.

Day Treatment and School-Based Programs

A child who has frequent and uncontrollable emotional outbursts, cannot cooperate with others, or withdraws socially may be prohibited from attendance in a regular school setting. For these children, Astor Day Treatment is licensed by the NYS Office of Mental Health and combines a program of clinic treatment with education services that follow a curriculum approved by the NYS Education Department. Day Treatment gives children the chance to thrive in a traditional school environment with the intensive support they need to overcome behavioral challenges. When children and adolescents graduate from day treatment, they can re-enter public school and transition into their appropriate school placement.

The School-Based Initiative at Shakespeare School in the Bronx supports children who are experiencing problems adjusting to the daily routine of a traditional school environment. Services include classroom crisis intervention and supervised lunch groups for children who are unable to cope with daily structure.

The Lawrence F. Hickey Center for Child Development

The Lawrence F. Hickey Center for Child Development, located in the Northeast Bronx, is home to our Day Treatment Program (therapeutic nursery) that was developed to meet the emotional and cognitive needs of a special group of 3-5 year old children. The Center, purchased by Astor in 1981, was built in 1877 as a two-room public school (P.S. 15), and has always been known in the community as the Little Red School House. The children who attend classes at "Little Red" display serious emotional disorders and are typically rejected from nursery programs and kindergarten after an initial assessment or after only a few short weeks of enrollment.