



## ***Astor Gets \$250K Robin Hood Grant for Transitions Program***

Astor Services for Children & Families has received a \$250,000 grant from Robin Hood that will support its Transitions Program in the Bronx, to help children with serious emotional problems transition from its Lawrence F. Hickey Center for Child Development and its Early Childhood Day Treatment Program to public school.

The Lawrence F. Hickey Center provides early childhood and mental health services to a special group of 3-5 year old children with emotional and cognitive needs. These children display a range of behaviors that impact on their ability to develop or attain age-appropriate cognitive and social skills. Typically, they have been rejected from nursery programs and kindergarten after a few weeks of enrollment. Many of the children in this program are in kinship foster homes and have lived in impoverished environments characterized by violence, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and child abuse. Children in Astor's Day Treatment Programs, in three locations in the Bronx, ages 5 - 12, come from the same background, with many in the foster care system living with kinship foster families or with other families in the community. The primary goal of these programs is to teach

children the skills necessary so that they can transition to a less restrictive public school environment.

"I can't begin to thank Robin Hood for their continued investment in our work!" says James McGuirk, Ph.D., Executive Director/CEO, Astor Services for Children & Families. "Robin Hood's overarching goal is to eliminate poverty in the New York City area, which truly aligns with our overarching goal for the children in our Bronx programs, who have severe emotional and behavioral disorders, graduate high school."

McGuirk explains that Robin Hood's support over the past several years has helped Astor provide additional supportive services to the identified children as well as allowed them to capture data that shows the impact Astor is making on the lives of these children and their families. Robin Hood's continued support will allow Astor to continue this very important work.

Founded in 1953, Astor Services for Children & Families now serves more than 6,000 children and families annually in over 33 locations in Hudson Valley and the Bronx. Astor offers residential programs, early childhood programs, and community-based behavioral health and prevention services.