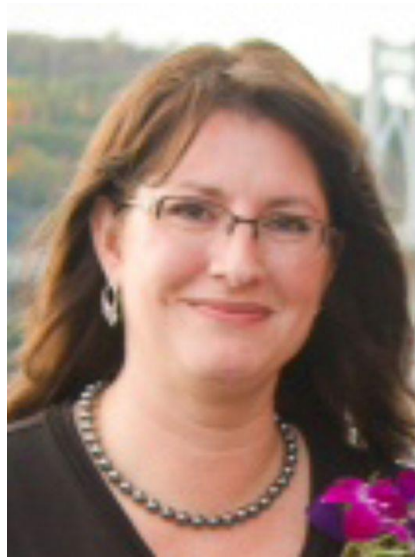


## Grace Smith House director leaving to be Astor COO

John Davis, Poughkeepsie Journal 10:53 p.m. EST November 19, 2014



(Photo: Courtesy Photo)

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Renee Fillette is looking forward to applying what she learned helping victims of domestic violence and preventing such abuse to her new job assisting children in need.

After four and half years as executive director of Grace Smith House, she is stepping down on Nov. 30. Fillette, 42, begins her new job as chief operating officer of Astor Services for Children and Families on Dec. 8.

"What I'm really looking forward to is the opportunity to bring the unique lessons learned from working in the field of domestic violence ... into an organization that serves such a diverse array of children and families in our community," she said.

Grace Smith House, based in Poughkeepsie, is a nonprofit that provides shelter, advocacy and support services to domestic violence victims and their families.

Astor Services, based in Rhinebeck, is a community-based nonprofit organization that provides children's mental health services, child welfare services, and early childhood development programs for families in the Mid-Hudson Valley and the Bronx.

Steven Chickery, chairman of the Grace Smith House board of directors, said Fillette leaves the agency in better shape than when she arrived.

"Her hard work and nurturing personality helped stabilize Grace Smith House at a time when we needed just that," he said. "Her organizational skills, fiscal oversight, calm demeanor and fierce protective instincts have put our agency in a strong position to continue to move forward with our goal of ending domestic violence in our area."

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