



## **Astor Services for Children and Families Hold Event To Support Head Start Programs**

**Poughkeepsie Journal**

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Eighty-six empty chairs were displayed outside of the Poughkeepsie Head Start Center of Astor Services For Children & Families today to symbolize the number of Dutchess County children who have lost their positions in the Head Start and Early Head Start programs. A nationwide total of \$405 million has been cut and 3,847 children were forced to leave Head Start and Early Head Start programs this year alone because of loss of monetary support, according to Astor's Sept. 4 press release. These cuts were a direct result of last spring's congressional budget deadlock that occurred when a deadline for adopting the federal budget passed last April. According to Mary Sontheimer, assistant executive director, federal budget cuts have caused a \$340,000 reduction in funding for Astor's early childhood programs. These programs are designed for low-income families in Dutchess.

[http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/article/20130909/NEWS01/309090042/Today-s-news-summary-Sept-9-2013?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/article/20130909/NEWS01/309090042/Today-s-news-summary-Sept-9-2013?nclick_check=1)