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## **Astor Services for Children & Families Receives the First American Mental Health Foundation's Stefan de Schill Award**

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**Rhinebeck, N.Y.** — On Wednesday, Astor Services for Children & Families received the first Stefan de Schill Award, presented by the American Mental Health Foundation (AMHF), at an Award Ceremony hosted by the Edwin Gould Foundation in New York, NY. Dr. Sapna Parikh, Medical Reporter, "Good Day New York," Fox 5 TV emceed the ceremony that was attended by supporters of both the AMHF and Astor. The first Stefan de Schill Award is presented as the AMHF celebrates its 85th anniversary and came with a \$5 thousand donation. It is given to exceptional organizations and individuals working in the spirit of AMHF and honors the work of Dr. Stefan de Schill, AMHF Director from 1948 until his death in 2005. It was an evening that highlighted the need for the barriers to break down in society on the stigma around mental illness, which prevents many from talking openly about the realities of mental illness and the suffering families confront as they parent children with emotional and behavioral problems.

The American Mental Health Foundation, a national research organization for the advancement of mental health, is dedicated to the welfare of people suffering from emotional problems. "In honor of our 85th anniversary, we are delighted to present the first American Mental Health Foundation Stefan de Schill Award to Astor in recognition of their work on behalf of the welfare of young people suffering with emotional problems and their loving families. For more than 55 years, Astor has worked in the spirit of the American Mental Health Foundation. We wanted to honor Dr. de Schill's memory by recognizing an organization that so clearly parallels his own values and life's work." says Evander Lomke, President and Executive Director, American Mental Health Foundation.

James McGuirk, Ph.D., Executive Director/CEO, Astor Services for Children & Families said on accepting the Award, "I am honored that Astor has been awarded the first Stefan de Schill Award, a man who worked tirelessly on behalf of those suffering emotional problems. On behalf of the children and families we serve as well as our staff, I want to thank the American Mental Health Foundation's Award Committee for selecting us. We feel quite humbled to be recognized for the work we do so that children and their families will find strength, healing, hope and trust."

Upon accepting the Award, Dr. McGuirk announced that the \$5 thousand donation will go towards Astor's David and Robert Crenshaw Training Fund. Created in January 2009 in honor of Dr. Crenshaw and his brother Robert (who suffered from some of the same challenges as some of Astor's children), who was an inspiration to Dr. Crenshaw and his career. Dr. Crenshaw has been associated with Astor since 1978 and is currently a Board member.



“Our commitment to training and my desire to make sure we will forever carry out this mission is why we are using the money from the Award to support the David and Robert Crenshaw Training Fund, which was created to honor not only David and his brother, but all families that have lived with mental illness in their families,” says Dr. McGuirk.

Many people came out to join in the celebration including Board and staff members of both organizations, colleagues and donors. In addition, The Edwin Gould Foundation donated the space and Gerald Perat, photographer, donated his services.

*Astor Services for Children & Families (formerly The Astor Home for Children, as it has 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. For additional information about Astor Services for Children & Families, please visit their website at [www.astorservices.org](http://www.astorservices.org) or call Astor Services for Children & Families: Home for Children Foundation at (845) 871-1117.*



From left to right: Astor's Board members, Dr. David Crenshaw & Dr. Virginia Sibbison; Dr. Sapna Parikh, Medical Reporter, "Good Day New York," Fox 5 TV and Event Emcee; Evander Lomke, Executive Director, American Mental Health Foundation; Dr. James McGuirk, Executive Director/CEO, Astor Services for Children & Families; Cynthia Rivera Weissblum, President & CEO, Edwin Gould Foundation, Event Host; Astor Board members, Susan Ragusa and Astor's Board Chair, Lawrence Weisberg.