



...Because every child deserves a childhood

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## **Astor Receives \$2,500 from the Community Foundation of Dutchess County for its Early Childhood Program**

**Rhinebeck, NY** – Astor Services for Children & Families received a \$2,500 grant from the Community Response Fund of the Community Foundation of Dutchess County. The grant will support a mobile library for Astor's Early Head Start families in their home-based programs.

"We are thankful to the Community Foundation of Dutchess County for this grant. Our Parent Infant Educators, who make weekly home visits to the families of infants and toddlers in Dutchess County, will have the opportunity to bring literacy materials such as books, puppets and flannel boards as well as parent information, to loan the families in our Early Head Start programs. This will make a tremendous difference to the families," says Mary Sontheimer, Assistant Executive Director, Astor Early Childhood Programs

Astor is the local grantee for the federal Early Head Start and Head start programs and provides comprehensive child development services to poverty level children and their families. Mary Sontheimer said that "The focus throughout the programs is relationship building, strength-based and parent inclusive. Our preschool programs serve children from low-income families and provide supplemental services such as nutrition, social services and comprehensive health, including mental, physical, and dental. In addition, children with disabilities are fully integrated with non-disabled children and parents are highly involved and participate in all aspects of their children's learning experience."

The Community Foundation of Dutchess County held a reception for all the grant recipients from the Robert R. Chapman Fund, Community Response Fund of the Community Foundation of Dutchess County, Ann and Abe Effron Donor Advised Fund and the John T. Sloper Community Fund, on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> where grant recipients were presented with their checks.

*Since 1953, Astor Services for Children & Families (formerly The Astor Home for Children) has been providing behavioral and educational services in a caring environment where children and their families find strength, healing, hope and trust. 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.*

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