



...Because every child deserves a childhood

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Astor Held Ground Breaking Ceremony for Construction of New Children's Living Quarters in Rhinebeck, NY

Rhinebeck, N.Y. - Astor Services for Children & Families had a Ground Breaking Ceremony on Tuesday, September 13th, at 12:00N at their Residential Programs Facility, 6339 Mill Street, Rhinebeck, NY. Astor will replace the current living quarters for the children in the Residential Treatment Program (RTF).

Astor's RTF is a 24-hour treatment facility for children from the Hudson Valley Region and New York City. The children range in age from 5 - 13 at the time of admission and must have a diagnosed, severe emotional disturbance/mental illness. When there is evidence of a need for treatment beyond what could be provided in a less-restrictive setting and the child's behavior is such that they can be maintained safely in open-treatment surroundings, Astor's RTF is most suitable.

According to Jim McGuirk, Ph.D., Executive Director/CEO, Astor Services for Children & Families, "We are delighted to have the opportunity to build new living quarters for the 20 children in our RTF Program. The current living spaces in our historic Rhinebeck location have been retrofitted over the past 50 years and are not fully meeting the needs of the children any longer."

Dr. McGuirk goes on to say, "Construction of the new building will not increase the number of children we serve - this number will remain the same. Rather, the new living units will allow us to further meet our commitment to provide the best quality service in the best possible environment."

During the ceremony, there were representatives from the local legislators, New York State Office of Mental Health, Department of Mental Hygiene, Astor Board members, staff, children from the RTF Program and Kirchhoff-Consigli Construction Management of Pleasant Valley, the construction manager of the project. Greg Burns, the President of Kirchhoff-Consigli added "We are excited to work with Astor on this valuable project, which will provide over 200 construction jobs. We have always been committed to work with the various non-profit and charitable organizations in the area. Our local employees are excited about working on this historic facility."

The new addition designed by Mauri Associates of Poughkeepsie will fit within the current site and be compatible with the existing architecture.

The target date for the completion of the project is September 2012.

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 or call Astor Services for Children & Families: Home for Children Foundation at (845) 871-1117.

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(In photo: Ms. Ann K. Armater, Board Co-Chair; Board Members Scott D. Bergin, Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, J. Joseph McGowan, Julie H. Krieger, Susan J. Ragusa, Virginia H. Sibbison ; Dr. Jim McGuirk, CEO/Executive Director; Charles R. Daniels III, Board Member)



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(In photo: Dr. Jim McGuirk, CEO/Executive Director; Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, Board Member; Scott Cruikshank, Kirchoff-Consigli; William Steinhaus, Dutchess County Executive; Ms. Ann K. Armater, Board Co-Chair; Assemblyman Marcus Molinaro; and Jay Deising, Architect with Mauri Associates; Children of Astor)