



...Because every child deserves a childhood

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**Astor Services and DCRCO
9th Annual Public Policy Breakfast**

Rhinebeck, NY – The 9th Annual Public Policy Breakfast will be held on Thursday, March 15, 2012 at 7:30 AM at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel and is hosted by Astor Services for Children & Families and the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce. After opening remarks from the newly-elected County Executive, Marcus Molinaro, Dr. Mark Katz will address an audience of business and community leaders on the topic, “Children who Fail in School but Succeed in Life: Advances in our Understanding of Human Resilience.”

Dr. Katz’s presentation will focus on the challenges children face in schools; and he will illustrate with examples from across the country on how schools can turnaround the lives of children. Dr. Katz will also address the communities’ role in promoting school success.

Dr. Katz is a clinical and consulting psychologist in San Diego, CA and author of *On Playing a Poor Hand Well* (W.W. Norton & Co., 1997). He is the recipient of the 1998 Rosenberry Award, a national award given yearly by the Children’s Hospital in Denver, CO, in recognition of an individual’s contribution to the field of behavioral science. Dr. Katz is both a keynote and featured speaker at regional and national conferences. Most recently, he has worked with colleagues from around the country on a federally-sponsored, multi-year, media campaign designed to increase public awareness of bullying and other forms of school violence. For the past 24 years, Dr. Katz has served as the Director of Learning Development Services, an educational, psychological and neuropsychological center in San Diego.

After the Public Policy Breakfast, Dr. Katz will hold a special workshop from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. This workshop, sponsored by Astor, is open to mental health professionals, nurses, psychiatrists, students, interns, teachers, parents, school clinicians and educators. The workshop, entitled, “Changing the Odds, One School Day at a Time,” will provide lessons learned from those who have overcome adverse childhood experiences and illustrate ways of incorporating these lessons into existing systems of care. For workshop information, contact Dr. Athena Drewes at (845) 673-4260 ext. 232. There is a \$75 fee to attend the workshop.

Kirchhoff-Consigli Construction Management, M&T Bank, McCabe & Mack, LLP, and Rose & Kiernan, Inc., are the sponsors for this year’s Public Policy Breakfast.

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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