



...Because every child deserves a childhood

**For more information contact:**

Sonia Barnes-Moorhead  
(845) 871-1117, smoorhead@astorservices.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 15, 2012

**Astor Services and DCRCO  
9<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Policy Breakfast**

**Rhinebeck, NY** – The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Policy Breakfast, hosted by Astor Services for Children & Families and the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, took place on Thursday, March 15, 2012 at 7:30 AM at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel. Dr. Mark Katz addressed 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 focused on the challenges children face in schools and how schools can turnaround the lives of children. The presentation was well received by the audience who went away with some concrete examples on how the community can work together to help promote 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). 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.

“I believe all kids, given the right environment and support, can be successful, as highlighted during Dr. Katz’s presentation. Astor has programs that support this success,” says Dr. Jim McGuirk, Executive Director, CEO, Astor Services for Children & Families.

After the Public Policy Breakfast, Dr. Katz held a special workshop, sponsored by Astor, from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The workshop, entitled, “Changing the Odds, One School Day at a Time,” was attended by mental health professionals, nurses, psychiatrists, students, interns, teachers, parents, school clinicians and educators. It provided lessons learned from those who have overcome adverse childhood experiences and illustrated ways of incorporating these lessons into existing systems of care.

*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.*

###

**Central Administration**

6339 Mill Street  
P.O. Box 5005  
Rhinebeck, NY 12572-5005  
Tel: (845) 871-1000  
Fax: (845) 876-2020  
Email: [astor@astorservices.org](mailto:astor@astorservices.org)  
Website: [www.astorservices.org](http://www.astorservices.org)

