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...Because every child deserves a childhood

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 4, 2013

Astor Appoints New Executive Leadership

Rhinebeck, NY – Astor Service for Children and Families has appointed Rod DiMotta, Ph.D., Assistant Executive Director, Bronx Behavioral Health & Prevention Programs; Sheila Doherty, PsyD., Assistant Executive Director, Residential Programs; and Ed Pruitt, Assistant Executive Director, Public Policy and Organizational Development. These appointments are a result of retirements.

Dr. DiMotta was the Deputy Director of Astor's Bronx Day Treatment Program for over 30 years. In this position, he provided clinical supervision to staff as well as supervised the American Psychological Association (APA) Interns. He was one of the leaders in the development of Astor's Early Childhood Program for children with emotional and behavioral challenges. The Lawrence F. Hickey Center for Child Development, which is the only such program in the Bronx, serves children 2.9 years old to kindergarten age. Upon his appointment, Dr. DiMotta said, "I am looking forward to leadership challenges and welcome the opportunity to work with Astor's executive team to continue to deliver services to children and families in the Bronx and the Hudson Valley."

Prior to her appointment, Dr. Doherty was the Clinical Director for the Residential Programs in Rhinebeck for over 11 years and has been with Astor for 22 years. Astor's residential programs serve children ages 5 - 13 with serious behavioral and emotional difficulties. As the Clinical Director, Dr. Doherty was responsible for the clinical programs that included programming, supervision of APA Interns, and developing/designing trainings for the clinical staff. In her new role, Dr. Doherty will provide overall leadership to Astor's Residential Programs. Upon her appointment, Dr. Doherty said, "I am incredibly excited to support the extraordinary efforts of the children, families and staff in our Residential Programs. I am committed to continue our mission to provide opportunities to capitalize on the strengths and talents of all to assist in healing and to provide hope for the future."

Mr. Pruitt comes to Astor with decades of previous experience in banking, not-for-profit management and the Air Force. In his new position, he will oversee public policy and organizational development initiatives. Upon his appointment, Mr. Pruitt said, "I am honored to work with such a fantastic organization. Astor has a history of caring and a commitment to making the lives of children and families so much better."

Dr. James McGuirk the, Executive Director at Astor said, "These new executive leaders, throughout their careers, have worked hard on behalf of children and families. I am delighted they are now part of our executive leadership team and look forward to their insights and guidance as Astor moves into the future."

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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