



...Because every child deserves a childhood

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Astor seeks donors to brighten holidays for its children

Agency kicks off annual Adopt-A-Family program

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RHINEBECK – Throughout the year, Astor Services for Children & Families provides support for thousands of children and their families throughout the mid-Hudson Valley.

The agency is looking for help from the community to ensure those children have a fulfilling and enjoyable holiday season. Astor is seeking donors for its annual Adopt-A-Family program and for ongoing support for its Adopt-A-Classroom program.

Groups or individuals are asked to volunteer to provide holiday food and presents for one or more families of children who receive Astor’s services, said agency spokesperson Samantha Lowe, who coordinates the program.

“Some of the families in our programs are among some of the least fortunate in the community and are deserving of our help,” Sam Lowe, Program Manager, Astor, said.

Suggested gifts are divided into two categories, a “needs” list and a “wants” list. The needs list includes items such as groceries, winter coats and hats. The wants list includes more traditional holiday gifts, such as dolls, arts and crafts sets and children’s sports equipment.

Lowe said the response from parents of the children who receive gifts through the Adopt-A-Family program is always heartwarming. “Every year, they are grateful for the amazing support from so many donors,” Lowe said. Last year, Adopt-A-Family served over 1,000 individuals.

Astor is also seeking donors for Adopt-A-Classroom/Student Program, where groups and individuals from the community donate towards school supplies to the agency’s Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Recent federal budget cuts have had a significant impact on the local Head Start programs in Dutchess County. Donations of \$200 per student or \$4,000 per classroom can provide the necessary materials, such as paper, crayons, glue, paint and poster boards for a class for a full year, Lowe said.

For more information on the Adopt-A-Family and Adopt-A-Classroom/Student programs, contact Lowe at 845-871-1171 or at slowe@astorservices.org.



About Astor

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 more than 6,000 children and families annually in over 33 locations, Astor's current range of services in the Hudson Valley (Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties) and the Bronx include: Residential Programs (for children ages 5 - 14 who have severe behavior and mental health challenges); Early childhood Programs (Astor operates the Early Head Start and Head Start Programs in Dutchess County, a federal early childhood program for low-income families); and Community-Based Behavioral Health and Prevention Services (outpatient mental health services).

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