



...Because every child deserves a childhood

February 24, 2014

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Astor Receives \$50k Grant from The Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation

Children with emotional problems transition to public school

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bronx, N.Y. – Astor Services for Children & Families received a \$250,000 grant from Robin Hood – New York City’s largest poverty fighting organization – that will support its Transitions Program in the Bronx, to help children with serious emotional problems transition from its Lawrence F. Hickey Center for Child Development and its Early Childhood Day Treatment Program to public school.

The Lawrence F. Hickey Center provides early childhood and mental health services to a special group of 3-5 year old children with emotional and cognitive needs. These children display a range of behaviors that impact on their ability to develop or attain age-appropriate cognitive and social skills. Typically, they have been rejected from nursery programs and kindergarten after a few weeks of enrollment. Many of the children in this program are in kinship foster homes and have lived in impoverished environments characterized by violence, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and child abuse. Children in Astor’s Day Treatment Programs, in three locations in the Bronx, ages 5 – 12, come from the same background, with many in the foster care system living with kinship foster families or with other families in the community. The primary goal of these programs is to teach children the skills necessary so that they can transition to a less restrictive public school environment.

“I can’t begin to thank Robin Hood for their continued investment in our work! Robin Hood’s overarching goal is to eliminate poverty in the New York City area, which truly aligns with our overarching goal for the children in our Bronx programs, who have severe emotional and behavioral disorders, graduate high school,” says James McGuirk, Ph.D., Executive Director/CEO, Astor Services for Children & Families.

McGuirk goes on to say that the Robin Hood’s support over the past several years has helped Astor provide additional supportive services to the identified children as well as allowed them to capture data that shows the impact Astor is making on the lives of these children and their families. Robin Hood’s continued support will allow Astor to continue this very important work.

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

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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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