



...Because every child deserves a childhood

May 26, 2015

## Delegates from the Ministry of Social and Family Development, Singapore

*To Visit Astor to learn best practices in children mental health*

### For more information, contact:

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Rhinebeck, N.Y.** – Nine delegates from the Children in Care Branch, Ministry of Social and Family Development in Singapore, will travel to the Hudson Valley to visit Astor Services for Children & Families on Thursday, May 28 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at their Rhinebeck location (6339 Mill Street). The purpose of their visit is to learn best practices in the field of children mental health, specifically, behavioral management models for residential settings, family preservation services, and family reunification services.

“As part of our efforts to develop Singapore’s children out-of-home care sector, Astor was recommended to us through Cornell University,” says Cherlyn Lim, Assistant Manager, Singapore’s Sector Development, Children in Care Branch, Rehabilitation & Protection Group, Ministry of Social and Family Development.

“We are delighted to host the group from Singapore and to share our 60 plus years of experience and best practices in the areas of residential care and family preservation. It is our honor to help guide the implementation and development of their program. In addition, we look forward to sharing the effectiveness of our services through our *Child Adolescent Needs & Strength-Mental Health Version (CANS-MH, Lyons, 2001)* measure,” says Jim McGuirk, Ph.D., Executive Director/CEO, Astor Services for Children & Families.

Astor works closely with academic institutions such as Cornell University and the University of Virginia that are known for their stellar research in the children mental health field. “We know the importance of marrying practice to knowledge and visa versa. This has truly informed how we do our work and kept us in the forefront of measuring the effectiveness of our work,” says McGuirk.

### 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 (in Dutchess County, Astor operates the Early Head Start and Head Start Programs, which are federal early childhood programs for low-income families); and Community-Based Behavioral Health and Prevention Services (outpatient mental health services).

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