



...Because every child deserves a childhood

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Retired NBA Player Adonal Foyle *To read to Astor's Children in the Bronx*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Retired NBA player, Adonal Foyle, will read his newly published book, *Too Tall Foyle*, to pre-school children in Astor's Lawrence F. Hickey Center (Hickey Center), 4010 Dyre Ave., Bronx, NY, on Monday, September 21 at 10:00 a.m. The uniqueness of this "reading" includes activities where he interacts with the children.

Foyle who was the eighth overall pick in the 1997 NBA draft, played a total of 13 seasons, the first ten with the Golden State Warriors and last three with the Orlando Magic. Upon his retirement from playing professional basketball, Adonal served for two seasons with the Orlando Magic as their Director of Player Development. A published author, national speaker, and consultant, Adonal currently serves as the Community Ambassador for the World Champion Golden State Warriors. He is also the Founder & President of Democracy Matters and the Kerosene Lamp Foundation.

Foyle grew up in the tiny nation of St. Vincent & the Grenadines, where he first picked up a basketball at the age of 15. His quest for a college education which ultimately led him to the USA and into the NBA is an amazing and inspirational story of ambition, hard work, and a little bit of luck. Growing up in impoverished circumstances in the Caribbean dramatically influenced Adonal's worldview, and off the court, he has always been an activist with a deep commitment to the community, especially young people.

Despite being recruited by several top basketball colleges, Adonal made the unorthodox decision to attend Colgate University, a small liberal arts college in upstate New York. A major factor in this decision was his desire to leave college with a strong academic grounding. At Colgate, he set an NCAA record with 492 career blocks which was only broken in 2002. Although he left Colgate early to join the NBA, he maintained his commitment to education and graduated in 1999.

"On behalf of the kids, our board and staff, I want to thank Adonal for taking the time to read to our children. It will be such a huge treat for our children in the Hickey Center, a group of 3 – 5 year old who have emotional and behavioral challenges. They are typically rejected from nursery programs and kindergarten after an initial assessment or after only a few short weeks of enrollment. In addition, many are from low-income communities. Having an NBA star read to them and to hear Adonal's life journey, will be an inspiration to all in attendance," says James McGuirk, Ph.D., Executive Director, Astor.

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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