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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 9, 2009

OVER 1,000 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES HAD A BRIGHTER HOLIDAY SEASON, THANKS TO ASTOR DONORS!

Rhinebeck, N.Y.— More than 1,000 children and families in the Hudson Valley region had a brighter holiday season this year, thanks to the many individuals, schools, youth groups, churches and businesses who "adopted" children and families through The Astor Home for Children's Adopt-A-Family/Secret Shopper Program.

The community showed its support in so many ways: gifts were collected from malls and workplace toy drives, and some families made the decision to purchase gifts for Astor's children in lieu of buying gifts for each other. Many companies and individuals adopted families or children, donating toys, home goods, and other items. Over 1,000 children and parents in our region had a brighter holiday season this year due to a tremendous outpouring of care and generosity.

Astor extends its heartfelt thanks to the following organizations for their generous support and compassionate dedication to the success of our community's families: Bard College, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, Chancellor Livingston School, Connections Church Revolution, Corbally, Gartland and Rappleyea, House of Open Doors, Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, IBM of East Fishkill, John Jay High School, LCS Facility Maintenance, Mid Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, Mill Road Elementary School, Montessori School, New York State Police, R&C Cleaning, Rhinebeck Savings Bank, Royalty Caregivers and Consultants, St. John's Reformed Church, Vassar College, Wachovia Securities (AG Edwards) in Rhinebeck, and many individuals and anonymous donors.

"Each year, there are so many in our area who help make the holidays special for a child or a whole family," said James McGuirk, Ph.D., Executive Director/CEO of The Astor Home for Children. "This year, we had an overwhelming response to the 'adoption' program... it truly shows how much Dutchess County and the Hudson Valley care about children and families in our community, and we at Astor truly appreciate the community's continued support."

The Astor Home for Children, as it has since 1953, promotes the well-being of children, adolescents and their families through a range of programs that prevent and treat emotional problems and facilitate healthy development. Now serving over 6,500 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 Mental Health and Educational Services. For additional information about The Astor Home for Children, please visit their website, www.astorservices.org, or contact The Astor Home for Children Foundation at (845) 871.1117.