



The Astor Home for Children 2006 - 2007 Annual Report



HOME FOR CHILDREN

...Because Every Child Deserves a Childhood

Message from the Executive Director and Chair

We are delighted to share our fiscal year 2006 – 2007 Annual Report with you, which illustrate the strides we made toward meeting our vision to be a “world class organization” by achieving excellence and providing services that create hope and develop strengths in children and families.

The work of Astor as well as the environment, in which we operate, is continuously evolving and at Astor, we are constantly exploring and developing new initiatives that meet the needs of the children and families we serve. We are committed to providing comprehensive, high-quality service delivery, to children and families. We believe that “...every child deserves a childhood” and each of our programs is dedicated to ensuring that this becomes a reality for the children we serve.

This fiscal year, through our Residential, Dutchess and Bronx Community-Based Behavioral Health, and Early Childhood Programs, we served thousands of children and their families at over 25 locations throughout the Hudson Valley and the Bronx, NY. These programs as well as our leadership role within the communities we serve experienced significant successes toward meeting our vision. As you read through this report, you will read stories of hope – of children and families whose lives have been impacted by our services.

The challenges many of our children and families encounter are numerous and continue to need a system of services to meet their needs. We are thankful for all the support we receive from friends like you, as we meet these needs. We look forward to your continued support as we work together to provide children with the childhood all children deserve!



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Our Vision

The Astor Home for Children strives to be a world class organization by achieving excellence in the delivery of all our services in order to create hope and develop strengths in children and families.



Our Mission

The Astor Home for Children promotes the emotional well being of children, youth and families through leadership in the development and provision of preventative and treatment oriented behavioral health services and early childhood education.

Our Programs

Astor Early Childhood Programs

Early Childhood Programs – Dutchess County	Total Served
Head Start	433
Early Head Start	139
Day Care	25
1-8-2/Therapeutic Preschool/Special Class Integrated Setting	56
Post Partum Depression	50
Early Childhood Coordinated Initiative	15
Total Early Childhood Programs – Dutchess County	718

Residential Treatment Programs

Residential Treatment Programs	Total Served
Residential Treatment Facility/HTP	25
Residential Treatment Center	49
The Astor Learning Center	109
Family Based Treatment Program	12
Therapeutic Foster Boarding Home Program	44
Hard to Place	35
Non-Secure Detention	396
Total Residential & Astor Learning Center	670

Our Early Childhood Programs are committed to ensuring that children get a good start in life by offering high quality, family-focused programs so that children will be successful in school and be emotionally and physically healthy. For over 30 years, we have operated all of the Head Start Programs in Dutchess County, a federally funded program for children from low-income families. It is a preschool developmental program of early childhood education and supplemental services including health (physical, dental, mental), nutrition, and social services, with extensive parental involvement and participation. Children with disabilities are served within a fully integrated setting with non-disabled children.



Our Residential Treatment Programs located in Rhinebeck, NY have helped children (ages 5 – 13) needing intensive mental health services and special education since 1953. Many of the children admitted to our programs have experienced hospitalizations prior to coming to Astor, and struggle with severe emotional and psychological problems. The children attend daily classes of 6 – 8 students at The Astor Learning Center, our award-winning school (U.S. Department of Education’s “National Blue Ribbon School for Excellence” in 1987-88, 1993-04 and 2000-01). We also provide opportunities in alternative family placements for children through our Therapeutic Foster Care and Family-Based Treatment Programs.

Our non-secure detention group care facilities (Dutchess and Orange counties) provide a safe, supportive environment to young persons admitted for short-term care while the Family Courts and the local Departments of Social Services (NSD) consider case disposition, including placement in longer-term residential care when indicated.

Our Community Based Behavioral Health Programs in the Bronx

have provided services to seriously emotionally disturbed children and adolescents, and support families in their efforts to develop and strengthen the skills needed to keep their children at home since 1974. Our high quality, family-focused services include children's outpatient clinics, day treatment, a therapeutic nursery (The Lawrence F. Hickey Center for Child Development), family support, preventative services and school-based initiatives.



Our Community Based Behavioral Health Programs in Dutchess County

provide individualized prevention, education and support to families through clinics, in-home and in-school settings. Through a variety of high quality, specialized programs, our staff helps children experiencing emotional or behavior difficulties, as well as parents, siblings and extended family members.

Our Programs

Community Based Behavioral Health Programs (Bronx, NY)

Community-Based Behavioral Health & Prevention – Bronx	Total Served
Lawrence F. Hickey Center	79
Prevention Programs	105
Outpatient Clinics	335
Day Treatment	332
Astor at Highbridge	125
Total Community-Based Behavioral & Prevention – Bronx	976

Community Based Behavioral Health Programs (Dutchess County)

Community-Based Behavioral Health – Dutchess County	Total Served
Counseling Programs	1594
Case Management Programs	265
School-Age Day Treatment	70
Adolescent Day Treatment	254
Mental Health/Juvenile Justice	116
Total Community-Based Behavioral & Prevention – Dutchess County	2299

Meeting Our Vision in 2006 - 07

"In 2006 – 2007, the Bronx Programs focused on improving services to clients through the implementation of evidence-based practices."

Joan DiBlasi, Ph.D.
Assistant Executive Director
Community Based Behavioral Services
(Bronx)



"The Millbrook Project of the Astor Early Childhood Training and Research Institute has provided Astor with a once in a lifetime opportunity to be involved in an exciting, cutting edge research project, focusing on the best practices in early childhood education."

Mary Sontheimer
Assistant Executive Director
Dutchess Early Childhood Programs

...Achieving Excellence In the Delivery of all our Services

Astor Early Childhood Training and Research Institute (AECT&RI)

- Developed assessment tools, curriculum and a training program to enhance computer/learning opportunities for young children utilizing IBM's Young Explorer equipment as a result of cash and technology support from IBM.
- Entered into a contract with [The Millbrook Early Childhood Education Center](#) where Astor gave its expertise to the Center's development.
- Engaged with 2000 Nobel Laureate Dr. James Heckman and other members at the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago.
- [Astor's Early Childhood Programs](#) Entered into a contract with The United Way of Dutchess County to provide services and information to new mothers in Vassar Brothers Medical Center through the Born Learning campaign.
- Provided training expertise and support to Dutchess County Department of Mental Health, further strengthening our existing relationship.

- [Our Residential Programs](#) were selected by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services as one of five agencies to participate in the Andrus Sanctuary Leadership Development Institute. Sanctuary aims to promote the development of a therapeutic environment that is more trauma sensitive and responsive to clients while maximizing strengths and reducing stress to staff.

"The Child and Family Clinic Plus program has made progress in reaching out to the community and partnering with several local agencies to increase the number of children being assessed."

Konstantinos Tsourbris, Ph.D.
Assistant Executive Director
Community Based Behavioral Services

- The New York State Office of Mental Health certified seven of our [Dutchess County Clinics](#) and Satellites as Child and Family Clinic Plus Counseling Centers.
- [Astor's Highbridge Clinic in the Bronx](#) was also designated a Child and Family Clinic Plus provider by the New York State Office of Mental Health, after a citywide open competitive bidding process.
- Our [Dutchess County Clinics](#) became a member of Dutchess County's Trauma Team and joined a 9 member citizen advisory board to the Dutchess County Legislature.
- [Our Bronx mental health programs](#) engaged in advanced level training in the area of evidence-based practice through trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy.

Implementing FADIE (focus, analyze, develop, implement and evaluate). Continuous quality improvement is a central tenet of service excellence.

- Dental screening by licensed dentists provided to children in our [Early Head Start](#) program in Beacon increased from 32% to 93%.
- Collaboration between the leadership of [Astor's Bronx and Dutchess Day Treatment Programs](#) helped to identify variables that may impact psychiatric hospitalizations.

...In order to Create Hope

A story of hope... Sheila* a young mother suffering from the “baby blues” was able to overcome her depression with encouragement from Astor’s **Maternal Mental Health Pilot Project’s** home visitors. Sheila explored infant massage training as a way to increase the bond between her and her son and pursued opportunities to meet other mothers through exercise groups or via an online support group for Hudson Valley mothers. Sheila recently returned to work and her depression medication has been greatly reduced. Both mother and son are thriving!

How do you spell safety? L I N A... In October 2006 we partnered with the Good Dog Foundation, a network of certified therapy dogs and their handlers dedicated to “helping humans heal” through their work. A golden Labrador Retriever named Lina, along with her owner/handler came to the rescue. When Lina came to visit, the children were told they could pet her and say anything they would like to her because she couldn’t repeat it and that Lina can be trusted. The response from the children was immediate!

Calming Breath: A story of hope from the Bronx

Infinite Totality is a model designed for our **Teen Enhancement Program**, which consists of a group of young women who meet at our Tilden Street location each Monday to learn about the “infinite possibilities that are yours in being a strong young woman”. A 14-year old member of the group was referred by her guidance counselor because of the abuse and then “acting out in school” that she experienced and was exhibiting. The program assists kids struggling with aggression by giving them skills to manage their stress and anger, including Calming Breath. This is a calming of the inner feelings within yourself. Within weeks, the angry young woman who was acting out in school earned the position of group leader. She told the counselor that she learned to “just turn and walk away” when somebody provokes her.

...and Develop Strengths In Children and Families.

Astor’s commitment to strength-based, collaborative care for clients has long included the annual solicitation of comprehensive feedback about services from the children and families.

- 174 children in our residential, foster care, and school-aged day treatment programs surveyed reported a high degree of overall satisfaction with services they receive. A common theme in children’s responses across programs was their belief that they are cared for by the broad range of staff who provide their care, using words such as “respectful,” “empathetic,” and willing to help when they are in need.
- Over 1,000 caregivers of children in treatment across the agency were surveyed. Astor received high satisfaction ratings on how helpful our services were to children. Caregivers overwhelmingly identified the quality of treatment and the new skills learned by their children as the best things about Astor.

*Name changed to protect confidentiality

Meeting Our Vision in 2006 - 07

“Kids who would never talk about their trauma told Lina things they’ve never told anyone. Kids are actually asking to talk about their ‘bad stuff’ now,” says Dr. Hagan. “Lina keeps me calm in the room. She’s a reminder to allow the children to do what they need to do, and a reminder of the value of nontraditional resources that we didn’t learn about in school, but helps us get the kids to a place where they can begin to heal.”



“The Sanctuary Model® challenges organizations to engage in a deep re-examination of the ways in which clients, staff and administrators interact with one another, with the goal of changing the program/culture toward being more therapeutic for trauma-affected clients.”

**John Kelly, Assistant Executive Director
Astor Residential Programs**

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Ms. Elizabeth Conti

Mary Hollenback
IBM

Mary Honey
Ms. Roberta R. Schiff

Irene Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Capasso

Ms. Katie House
Mr. Rudolph Eschbach

Mrs. Nancy Kelley
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence E. Colkin

Alexander Koutsoukos
Ms. Patricia McLaughlin

Mary Agnes Kuhn
B.G. & Mrs. Costa

Mr. John S. Liptay
Mr. & Mrs. George Gedge

Bella Loeffler
Mr. John J. Costa

Mrs. Alice Long
Mr. & Mrs. Bryan R. Golnek
Gap Foundation Gift Match Program
Mr. & Mrs. Gary R. Hack
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Capano
Ms. Suzanne M. Krauland
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Clausi

Gary R. Lutz
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond V. Lutz

Mr. Charles J. Madero, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Charles J. Madero

Joan Maraglio
Ms. Elizabeth Wardell

Andrew Molloy
Ms. Rosemary L. Molloy

J. Moloney
B.G. and Mrs. Costa
Ms. Margaret Anne McQueen
John R. McQueen

Ms. Jean Patti
Darren A. Moran
Mr. & Mrs. William Klemm
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Patti
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Seaman

Integral Tree and Landscaping
Jean L. Strack
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Mordos
Mr. & Mrs. John Osborn
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lysko
Ms. Mary Ellen Kenny
Ms. Mary M. Englund
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Ebel
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Wyatt
Ms. Sharon Sherrod
Trebach Lichtenstein Avrutine

Roy Peterson
Mr. & Mrs. Dominic Armelie

Regina Phelan
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Phelan

Ms. Margaret Potter
Mr. & Mrs. Cornelius J. Dwyer
Mr. John Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald G. Nolan

Ms. Madeleine Sanchez Post
Mr. John C. Honey
Dr. & Mrs. Antonino Parisi
Ms. Esther D. Minsky
Mr. & Mrs. Michelle Von Koch

Megan Anne Sherry
Mr. Jon A. Sherry &
Ms. Kathleen Herz

Loretta Sullivan
Ms. Alice V. Plotnick

Vince Tierney
Ms. Helen Tierney

William Tracy
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sontheimer
Mr. & Mrs. Ray B. Swift
Mr. & Mrs. Roger J. Krokey
Ms. Mariley Najdek

Uncle Willie & Aunt Margie
Mr. Jan Weido & Ms. Nancy C.
Clancy

Mr. Arthur Ungarro
Drumintee Consulting

Mr. Gus G. Verven
Mrs. Helen G. Verven

Dennis Virga
Gandolfo F. Virga

Harry & Ruth Vosburgh
Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Vosburgh

Maureen Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Walker

James Wagner
Ms. Mariley Najdek

Phillipp Weisbrodt
B.G. & Mrs. Costa

Gifts in Honor of:

Rudolph Albanese
Benjamin S. Hayden
Sr. Rose Logan

Astor Residential Programs
Mr. John G. Kelly

Robert Carroll
Mr. Ronald G. Nolan

Green Haven Correctional Facility
Matteawan Fed.

Mr. & Mrs. Adolfo Farias
Mrs. Margaret Howe

Mr. Barry F. Hagan
Mr. Donald P. McKibbin

Robert Lane
Mr. Robert Gutenstein

Sr. Rose Logan
Mr. & Mrs. Julian H. Dancy
Ms. Susan E. Dancy

Dr. & Mrs. James G. McGuirk
Mr. Joseph McGuirk

The Lawrence F. Hickey Fund
Ms. Christina Reik

The Lunch Bunch
Mr. David P. Bell

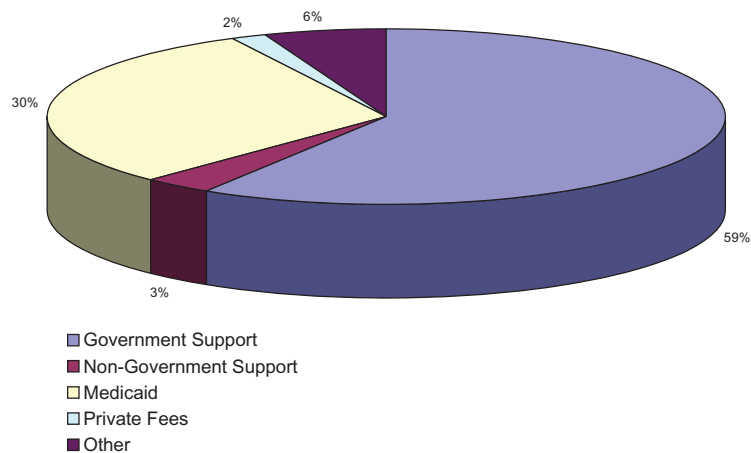
The Staff at Astor
Ms. Chrystia M. Slywotzky

Financial Highlights 2006 - 2007*

Astor Home for Children / Astor Learning Center / Astor Home for Children Foundation

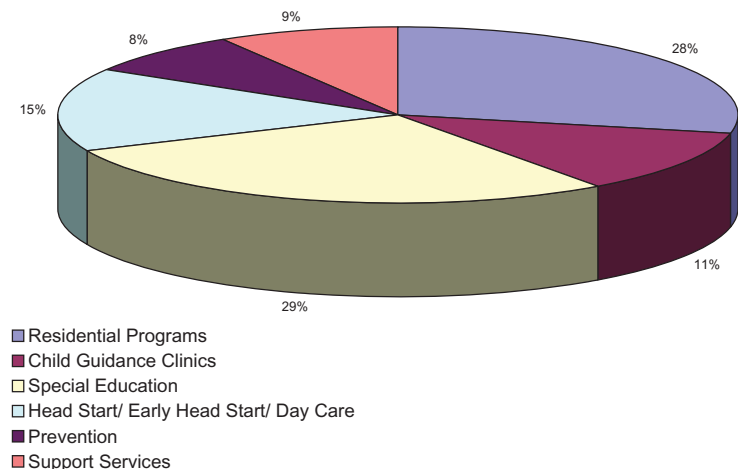
Combined Income 2006-07

Government Support	\$24,811,817
Non-Government Support	\$1,435,201
Medicaid	\$12,712,995
Private Fees	\$654,748
Other	\$2,500,459
Total Income	\$42,115,220



Combined Expenses 2006-07

Residential Programs	\$11,809,512
Child Guidance Clinics	\$4,764,523
Special Education	\$11,834,272
Head Start, Early Head Start and Day Care	\$6,273,944
Prevention	\$3,253,254
Support Services	\$3,571,633
Total Expenses	\$41,507,138



*unaudited



FAST FACTS

Through a wide variety of innovative services of the highest quality, The Astor Home for Children provides support for emotionally disturbed or poverty-stricken children, adolescents and their families. Whether they need mental health programs, special education or early childhood development support...Astor is there!

- ▶ **Astor** serves thousands of children, adolescents and their families annually.
- ▶ **Astor** is located in Rhinebeck, NY and in multiple locations throughout the Hudson Valley and in New York City.
- ▶ Since 1953, **Astor** has offered nationally-acclaimed programs.
- ▶ **Astor** led the creation of the Dutchess County Zero to Three Partnership.
- ▶ In 2005, **Astor** opened ASTOR at Highbridge, a new children's mental health clinic in the Bronx, NY.
- ▶ **Astor** is accredited by The Joint Commission (TJC).
- ▶ **Astor** is recognized as a National School of Excellence by the US Department of Education.

The Astor Home for Children

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Rhinebeck, NY 12572
(845) 871-1000
www.astorservices.org