



...Because every child deserves a childhood

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ASTOR SERVICES' PURPLE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

SPOTLIGHTS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITH EMPLOYEE TRAINING PROGRAMS

Rhinebeck, NY – October 20, 2016 – In recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Astor Services for Children & Families in Rhinebeck and the Bronx, is holding a purple ribbon campaign in solidarity with survivors of domestic violence. During the month-long campaign, the organization's hundreds of employees will wear purple ribbons to spread awareness about the issue.

In addition, Astor, with the help of New York State's Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV), is organizing a series of domestic violence training programs for its employees, including supervisors, clinicians, and foster care employees. The trainings will take place this fall and winter, with the goal of creating a well-informed workforce equipped to deal with the various issues surrounding domestic violence as they influence the workplace and the children and families that Astor serves.

"Together, with OPDV and Grace Smith House, we are working to provide each of our more than 800 employees in the Hudson Valley and the Bronx with the training and resources they need to take care of one another and those we serve," said **Renee Fillette, Ph.D., Astor's Chief Operating Officer**. "This is an enduring partnership and lasting commitment to eliminating the devastation of domestic violence in our community."

On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner. Roughly one in three women and one in four men have been victims of a form of physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner within their lifetime. The devastating impact of domestic violence carries from the home into the workforce and communities, affecting victims, their neighbors, relatives and colleagues.

Children who are exposed to domestic violence often experience mental, emotional, and social harm that can adversely affect their early development and leave them feeling isolated, vulnerable, anxious and depressed. Experts believe that children who are raised in abusive homes can be more prone to replicating violence later in life.

For more information, visit the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence website at <http://opdv.ny.gov/> or call (800) 942-6906.

About Astor

Astor Services for Children & Families, 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 more than 7,000 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 Behavioral Health and Prevention Services. For additional information please visit <http://astorservices.org/> or call (845) 871-1117.

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