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**NATHALIE TEJADA CASADO JOINS ASTOR SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES AS
DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

New Position Serves Bronx Communities

BRONX, NEW YORK, APRIL , 2016 - Astor Services for Children & Families, a non-profit organization that provides children's mental health services, child welfare services, and early childhood development programs in New York State's mid-Hudson Valley and the Bronx, has announced the appointment of Nathalie Tejada Casado as director of development, public and government relations for its Bronx location.

In her position, which was newly created to support communities in the Bronx, Casada, 31, is responsible for establishing relationships within the community, including with elected officials and foundations to the mutual benefit of New York City's northernmost borough and the people served by Astor Services for Children & Families.

"We need to continue talking about mental health and implementing meaningful programs to address it, especially when it comes to children," said Casada. "Astor Services is a platform that I am glad to be a part of because of its unwavering dedication to bettering the lives of children and their families. I'm looking forward to helping cultivate rich and rewarding relationships with the great people and programs in the Bronx and at Astor."

Before joining Astor Services for Children & Families, Casado, who moved from her native home in the Dominican Republic to the United States in 2001, worked in development for the Dominican Women's Development Center in Washington Heights and the City College of New York. She also has worked as a social worker and in support of young women of color through collaborations with organizations in the

Bronx, where she's lived since 2004. Additionally, Casado has co-organized more than 100 cultural events and raised funds to support cultural groups and institutions internationally.

"We are excited to see our presence in the Bronx increase, especially with Nathalie, who is devoted to the betterment of children and all community members, at the forefront of those efforts," said Sonia Barnes-Moorhead, executive vice president of The Children's Foundation of Astor.

Casado is the founder of TINGO: GritaFuerte, an Afro-Women collective in the Bronx and Brooklyn that organizes conferences, cultural events, and solidarity campaigns to elevate the people of African descent. She is a member of Funto Salud International, a humanitarian delegation to the border of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and is a member of the Committee for the Future (CFF) and the Grant Advisory Committee at the New York Women's Foundation.

Casado earned her bachelor degree in criminal justice with a minor in Latin American studies and from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, where she also received a master's in public administration. She recently was awarded a scholarship by the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute in Manhattan for its Innovative Cultural Advocacy Fellowship 2016, which involves exploring ways to advocate for people of color.

"The Bronx is strong, inclusive and genuinely welcoming," said Casado. "The borough has a lot of history yet continues to lead the way for future generations."

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 more than 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 behavioral 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)~~. Visit the organization online at www.astorservices.org

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