

# Work at Astor Services a mission come true for millennial

Samantha Lowe For the Poughkeepsie Journal 1:37 p.m. EDT May 26, 2016



*(Photo: jwArtWorks/Courtesy photo)*

Before I went to college, work in social services wasn't on my radar.

I wanted to be a political journalist, covering elections, politicians and the news that circulated around them. But while attending Ithaca College, I took a journalism course and immediately realized the profession wasn't for me. I went on to earn bachelor's degrees in writing and politics from the school. But what I most enjoyed during my time at the college was the Environmental Palestinian Film Festival that I created and organized during my junior and senior years, thanks to a grant through the college's Dana Student Internship Program.

The festival was held at Ithaca College and attended by more than 200 students and community members.

They watched films and listened to musicians I'd brought in from Palestine to bring awareness to the country's sustainability and environmental justice issues. The effort opened my eyes to the positive effect raising a community's consciousness can have on an ostracized population.

After graduating in 2012, I put that interest aside while I sought publishing jobs in New York City, since the work was more closely aligned with my degrees. Then, at the recommendation of a family friend, I applied for an available position as a program associate at The Children's Foundation of Astor in Rhinebeck, not far from my home town of Hyde Park. Until then I didn't know much about the organization, which generates support for Astor Services for Children & Families, a non-profit that provides behavioral and educational services to children with emotional and behavioral issues and their families in the Hudson Valley and the Bronx.

Within six months of getting the social media and administrative support job, I was promoted to special events coordinator, a position that then, as now, allows me to give back to kids in need in my community in a different way than direct care providers do. Through fundraisers, we are giving the children of Astor the childhood they deserve. Direct impact programs such as Adopt-A-Family forever hooked me into world of development and fundraising. There is no better feeling than seeing a smile on a child's face as he receives his first bike.

This March I took on a new position as the foundation's senior manager, public relations & development, which involves community outreach. My job gives me the chance to share all that the foundation and Astor do with community members, leaders and politicians. Part of that work generates financial support for our programs, but also equally as important is that it involves educating people on the importance of talking about mental health, not just in times of crisis but every day.

The work I do isn't about paying my bills. It's a mission. I never expected to be in this field but I love it. I have no plans on leaving my profession anytime soon and look forward to working for the children of Astor for many years to come.

*Young Professional is a first-person column written by those who are 45 and younger, and are making a go of it in the local business scene. If you would like to write for this feature, email Community Content Editor Barbara Gallo Farrell at [bfarrell@poughkeepsiejournal.com](mailto:bfarrell@poughkeepsiejournal.com) (<mailto:bfarrell@poughkeepsiejournal.com>) and include "Young Professional" in the subject line.*

**Poughkeepsie Journal**

Get your full year subscription for as low as

# \$19.99/YEAR

LIMITED TIME OFFER

UNLOCK MY \$19.99 OFFER  
([HTTP://OFFERS.POUGHKEEPSIEJOURNAL.COM/SPECIALOFFER?  
GPS-  
SOURCE=BEAGILMAY&UTM\\_MEDIUM=OVERLAY&UTM\\_SOURCE=BOUNCE-  
EXCHANGE&UTM\\_CAMPAIGN=MAY&UTM\\_CONTENT=AGILITYZONE](http://offers.poughkeepsiejournal.com/specialoffer?GPS-SOURCE=BEAGILMAY&UTM_MEDIUM=OVERLAY&UTM_SOURCE=BOUNCE-EXCHANGE&UTM_CAMPAIGN=MAY&UTM_CONTENT=AGILITYZONE))

## **Young Professional**

**Samantha Lowe**

**Age:** 25

**Title:** Senior Manager, Public Relations & Development, Children's Foundation of Astor

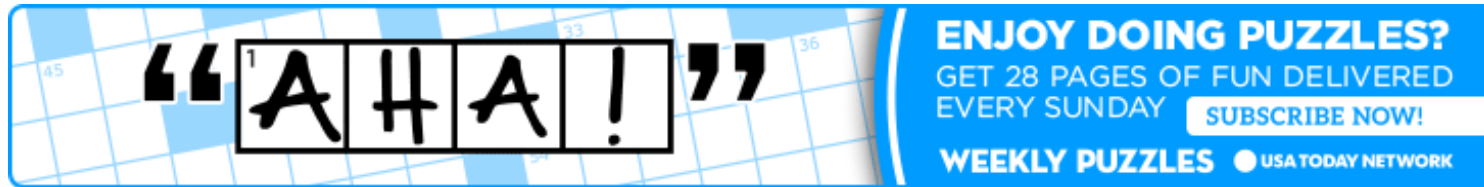
**Education:** Bachelor's of Arts in Politics; Bachelor's of Arts in Writing, both from Ithaca College

**Residence:** Hyde Park

**Outside pursuits:** Coach for girls' volleyball team, Franklin D. Roosevelt High School, Hyde Park

**Information:** The Children's Foundation of Astor, <http://astorservices.org/childrens-foundation-of-astor> (<http://astorservices.org/childrens-foundation-of-astor>); Astor Services for Children & Families, [www.astorservices.org](http://www.astorservices.org) (<http://www.astorservices.org>)

Read or Share this story: <http://pojonews.co/1TH5xal>



**ENJOY DOING PUZZLES?**  
GET 28 PAGES OF FUN DELIVERED  
EVERY SUNDAY **SUBSCRIBE NOW!**

**WEEKLY PUZZLES** ● USA TODAY NETWORK