



...Because every child deserves a childhood

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**ASTOR SERVICES' EXPRESSIVE ARTS PROGRAM PAINTINGS
FEATURED IN HILARIE BURTON LIFETIME CHRISTMAS MOVIE**

RHINEBECK, NY (December 15, 2019) – If you tune into Lifetime network's holiday film lineup this month, you may catch Hudson Valley resident, Hilarie Burton, in *A Christmas Wish*. The film's opening scene features several paintings created by children who participate in the Expressive Arts Program at [Astor Services for Children and Families](http://www.astorservices.org), a non-profit which provides behavioral and educational services for thousands of children and families throughout the Bronx and mid-Hudson Valley. Burton, a longtime supporter of Astor, portrays an art teacher and stars alongside *One Tree Hill* co-star and musician, Tyler Hilton, and Megan Park from *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*.

"The children served by Astor's Expressive Arts Program are thrilled to have some of their artwork included in *A Christmas Wish*," said Sonia Barnes-Moorhead, executive vice president of The Children's Foundation of Astor. "We are deeply humbled that Hilarie carried her support for Astor onto the small screen this holiday season."

Astor has received unwavering support from Burton over the years. Notably, she spearheads *Ghost Stories*, a series of live benefit performances featuring her husband, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, and other celebrity friends such as *Ant Man* star, Paul Rudd. In 2019, *Ghost Stories III* raised more than \$140,000 for the non-profit, with funds directed towards renovations in Astor's family therapy rooms, nursing station and other areas. Previously, Burton and Morgan assisted with the renovation of the boys' and girls' units at Astor's Residential Treatment Center (RTC) in Rhinebeck, NY.

Serving as an outlet for therapeutic and artistic healing, Astor's Expressive Arts Program uses painting, drawing, clay and sculpture to create an environment of free thinking and expression for the children it serves. Participants are encouraged to use their imaginations, explore and create in non-verbal ways and through a variety of mediums. For a look at some of the artwork

created through this program, tune into *A Christmas Wish*, available On Demand for Spectrum customers and airing on Lifetime throughout the month of December. To learn more about Astor or to donate, visit www.astorservices.org.

About Astor Services for Children & Families

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 10,000 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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Editor’s Note: Attached are two photos of Astor artwork featured in the film *A Christmas Wish*, starring Hilarie Burton.

Commented [SB1]: Can we include full names of the artists?

