

*Dear Friends,*

As the holidays draw near, we're reminded of the strength found in togetherness, and the profound impact compassion can have on a life.

**Let us introduce you to Alana.**

Alana's journey began in crisis. A single mother of four, she escaped an abusive relationship determined to give her children a better life. She then faced another uphill battle as she sought help for her young son, who was showing signs of emotional distress. Despite countless visits to doctors and specialists, she was told repeatedly, 'He's fine. He'll grow out of it.' But deep in her heart, she knew something was wrong.

Her persistence in seeking treatment for her son came at a cost. "Everyone around me thought I should just stay home and deal with it quietly," Alana shares. "But they didn't understand what that meant. It meant not only giving up my job, my independence, and my identity, but it also meant giving up my son's childhood. I felt invisible. I felt like I didn't matter. And worse, I felt like my son didn't matter."

**And then a school guidance counselor mentioned Astor Services and that moment changed everything.**

At Astor's Lawrence F. Hickey Center for Child Development, lovingly known as the Little Red Schoolhouse, Alana's son was welcomed with open arms. He learned that his feelings mattered. He learned how to express them in ways that brought connection, not conflict. And Alana? She found a community that didn't just understand her, but embraced her.

Inspired by the transformation she witnessed, Alana joined Astor in 2016. Today, she is the Family Peer Advocate Supervisor in SYNC (Serving Youth IN their Communities), helping other families navigate the same challenges she once faced. Her son is now 21, in college, and living a full, independent life.

Alana's story is a testament to what is possible when someone refuses to give up, and when a community refuses to let them fall. Every day, Astor is that community for families who feel like they have nowhere else to turn.

**Astor offers mental health services, early childhood education, and a compassionate support system.**

Many of our donors have shared that they give not only to make a difference—but to inspire others to do the same. Their generosity is a ripple effect, spreading hope and healing throughout our community. When you give to Astor, you're joining a movement of compassion, resilience, and belief in brighter futures.

This holiday season, your gift can help us continue to be a part of that lifeline. You can help a child find their voice, a parent find hope, and a family find healing.

**Please consider donating to Astor Services today.**

Together, we can ensure that no one has to face their struggles alone.

This holiday season, join us in spreading hope. Be the reason someone finds their way forward.

With gratitude,

*Yvette Bairan*  
CEO—Astor Services



"For the first time in years, I felt like I wasn't alone.

Astor saw my son for who he was. They saw me. They gave us hope."

*What they say...*

Partnering with Astor has been one of the most rewarding experiences for our team. Seeing the direct impact our support has on children and families reminds us why community investment matters. Astor's dedication and transparency make it easy to stay engaged and inspired.

**Tom Olin**  
Founder & CEO  
Crystal Blue Cleaning Service

When I first learned about Astor, I was moved by the stories of families who had nowhere else to turn—and found hope. I give because I want to be part of that hope. I want other donors to know that their support isn't just a donation; it's a lifeline. It's a way to say, 'You're not alone.'

**Pam Gunther**  
Founder & CEO  
Fit and Fun Playscapes

