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...Because every child deserves a childhood

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**Astor Opens New Children's Mental Health Clinic, Ulster County
Ribbon Cutting, Ellenville**

Rhinebeck, N.Y. – Astor Services for Children & Families' celebrated their new Children's Mental Health Clinic in Ellenville, NY, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 11:30 AM at 50 Center Street, Trudy Resnick Farber Bldg., Ellenville, NY.

Guests included Ulster County Executive, Mike Hein; Jeff Kaplan, Village Mayor (Ellenville); representatives from Ulster County Mental Health Department (Dr. Carol Smith, Commissioner, Cheryl Qamar, Deputy Commissioner, and Amy McCracken, Program Supervisor Clinical Services); Bob Hirsch, Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce, and other community leaders.

On January 1, 2013, Astor began providing Outpatient Mental Health Services to children (ages 2 – 21) in Ulster County. The clinics are located in Ellenville, Kingston and New Paltz. In addition to mental health services, Astor provides group therapy services to families through the Families Together Program. This program provides family support, advocacy and a skill building program to children and their parents with recreational activities at the Kingston YMCA. Funding for these services are generated from Medicaid, Insurance or Self-Pay.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony in Ellenville was an opportunity for Astor to introduce its Outpatient Clinics and the array of services offered, including bi-lingual (Spanish) Clinicians, to the community.

During the ceremony, James McGuirk, Ph.D., Executive Director/CEO, Astor said, "We are happy to providing these much needed services to the children and their families in Ulster County and are thankful for the support we have received from the Mental Health Department, local legislators and the community at large. We are delighted that County Executive Mike Hein and others were able to join us in this celebration."

County Executive, Mike Hein said during his remarks that "There is nothing more important to me than the health and safety of the children of Ulster County. Astor Services for Children & Families is the gold standard for children's mental health services in the Hudson Valley and I take great pleasure in knowing that Astor's clinic in Ellenville is open and they are now providing high quality mental health services to children and families in both English and Spanish. In addition, Astor is offering "open access intakes and crisis response" so that any child in distress can be seen that day.

In this era of decreasing State and Federal aid for mental health services, I am proud to say that by implementing innovative solutions and public/private partnerships we have been successful in preserving and enhancing treatment for children in need."

Commissioner, Dr. Carol Smith, stated during her presentation, that she thankful for the partnership with Astor that is providing children in the community with mental health support.

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 over 6,000 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 about Astor Services for Children & Families, please visit their website at www.astorservices.org or call Astor Services for Children & Families: Home for Children Foundation at (845) 871-1117.

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Center: Dr. James McGuirk, Executive Director/CEO, Astor and County Executive Mike Hein; **Right:** Jeff Kaplan, Village Mayor (Ellenville); representatives from Ulster County Mental Health Department Amy McCracken, Program Supervisor Clinical Services and : Cheryl Qamar, Deputy Commissioner; **Left:** Dr. Gus Tsoubris, Associate Executive Director, Dr. Carol Smith, Ulster County Mental Health Department and other representatives from the community and Astor.