



...Because every child deserves a childhood

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Astor's Holiday Fundraiser and Arts & Crafts Festival

*Specialty Crafts, Raffles, Themed Baskets and Baked Goods Sale to Benefit Agency's Children*

In addition to the high quality craft gifts for purchase, the highlight of the evening will be the amazing artwork produced by our children through the "Paint What You Feel," technique, led by artist Patrick Madden. You will have the opportunity to see paintings with titles such as: *The Visible Thing* and *Shrug*, and hear firsthand from these emerging artists (some as young as seven), how they came to these titles.

RHINEBECK – Specialty crafts, raffles, themed baskets, baked goods and other handmade items will be on sale December 7 at Astor Services for Children & Families' annual St. Nick's Holiday Fair.

The event will be held at the Rhinebeck location at 6339 Mill St. from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Some of the specialty handcrafted items for sale at the Fair are made by Astor's Residential Programs children, who live in Rhinebeck. Other items are made by Astor staff and volunteers. Proceeds will benefit recreational and family-strengthening activities.

"One of the most amazing parts of the St. Nick's Holiday Fair is seeing all the crafts the children made and knowing every time one is purchased, it gives a child at Astor the chance to have the childhood all kids deserve by allowing them to participate in recreational activities, such as fishing, camping or amusement park trips," said Samantha Lowe, Astor's Program Manager. Lowe goes on to say that the children, staff and volunteers work all year to create these high-quality items.

In addition, there will be raffle that includes a wide selection of prizes (i.e., 40" Samsung Smart TV, Kindle Fire, two night stay at the Paramount Hotel in New York, etc.), and themed gift baskets (i.e., local restaurants, chocolate lovers, spa, baby, etc.). "All of these raffle items are donated by the community, including local merchants, volunteers and staff. We feel very fortunate," said Lowe.

For more information, contact Lowe at 845-871-1171 or [slove@astorservices.org](mailto:slove@astorservices.org), or visit the agency's Web site at [www.astorservices.org](http://www.astorservices.org).

### 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 over 33 locations, Astor's current range of services in the Hudson Valley (Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties) and the Bronx include: Day Treatment Programs (for children ages 2.9 – 14); 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).**

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