

RHINEBECK



Gerald Peart photo

Pictured, from left, are Astor's board members, Dr. David Crenshaw and Dr. Virginia Sibbison; Dr. Sapna Parikh, medical reporter, "Good Day New York," Fox 5 TV and event emcee; Evander Lomke, executive director, American Mental Health Foundation; Dr. James McGuirk, executive director/CEO, Astor Services for Children & Families; Cynthia Rivera Weissblum, president and CEO, Edwin Gould Foundation, event host; Astor Board member Susan Ragusa; and Astor's board chairman, Lawrence Weisberg.

Astor receives Stefan de Schill Award

Astor Services for Children & Families received the first Stefan de Schill Award, presented by the American Mental Health Foundation at an award ceremony recently hosted by the Edwin Gould Foundation in New York City.

Dr. Sapna Parikh, medical reporter, "Good Day New York," Fox 5 TV, emceed the ceremony that was attended by supporters of both the AMHF and Astor.

The first Stefan de Schill Award is presented as the AMHF celebrates its 85th anniversary and came with a \$5,000 donation. It is given to exceptional organizations and individuals working in the spirit of AMHF and honors the work of Dr. Stefan de Schill, AMHF director from 1948 until his death in 2005.

It was an evening that highlighted the need for the barriers to break down in society on the stigma around mental illness, which prevents many from talking

openly about the realities of mental illness and the suffering families confront as they parent children with emotional and behavioral problems.

The American Mental Health Foundation, a national research organization for the advancement of mental health, is dedicated to the welfare of people suffering from emotional problems.

"In honor of our 85th anniversary, we are delighted to present the first American Mental Health Foundation Stefan de Schill Award to Astor in recognition of their work on behalf of the welfare of young people suffering with emotional problems and their loving families. For more than 55 years, Astor has worked in the spirit of the American Mental Health Foundation. We wanted to honor Dr. de Schill's memory by recognizing an organization that so clearly parallels his own values and life's work," said Evander Lomke, president and executive

director, American Mental Health Foundation.

Astor Services for Children & Families (formerly The Astor Home for Children), 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 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 more information about Astor Services for Children & Families, visit the Web site at www.astorservices.org or call Astor Services for Children & Families: Home for Children Foundation at 845-871-1117.

NEW YORK

National Grid receives PSC approval

National Grid recently received New York Public Service Commission approval for two new energy efficiency programs in its upstate New York service area to help mid-sized commercial, industrial and municipal customers save energy, save money and benefit the environment.

With the fundamental objective of advancing the most efficient use of energy as possible to reduce overall demand, the programs include rebates for mid-sized commercial and industrial customers to offset the cost of retrofitting existing equipment for increased energy efficiency and investing in new, high-efficiency equipment. Rebate amounts will vary by the size and type of equipment installed.

"New York state Governor David Paterson has outlined bold, but achievable targets for energy efficiency efforts that can change the way we use energy," said Tom King, president of National Grid in the U.S. "We applaud the PSC's approval of these programs that our business and municipal customers can use to take action. National Grid is committed to reducing carbon emissions and assisting our customers with their energy costs. Our cost-effective energy efficiency programs are a way to do both at once."

National Grid has a 20-year track record of successful, award-winning efficiency programs in New England and these programs leverage that experience for the company's upstate New York business customers. Similar, cost-effective gas energy efficiency programs have been in effect in Massachusetts for more than 15 years.

These programs helped save customers nearly 565 million therms of natural gas, representing approximately \$876 million in savings on their heating bills.

The rebates included in these programs cover up to 50 percent of the total costs, including labor and equipment. Commercial and industrial customers will be able to select from a variety of options based on the complexity of their building and the unique opportunity to gain significant energy savings.

"National Grid works closely with our business and municipal customers every day providing practical solutions," said King. "With these added rebates, we can make energy efficiency even more affordable for those customers. For our municipal customers, our added on-bill financing option will assist them in achieving higher efficiency opportunities in their municipal buildings by offering more attractive financing solutions where capital and operating budgets prohibit up-front investments."

Detailed information and applications to participate in these new programs are available at www.powerofaction.com/efficiency. Information is also available by calling 1-800-332-3333.

National Grid is an international energy delivery company. In the U.S., National Grid delivers electricity to approximately 3.3 million customers in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Rhode Island and manages the electricity network on Long Island under an agreement with the Long Island Power Authority. It is the largest distributor of natural gas in the northeastern U.S.