



AMERICAN GROUP
PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION
GROUP FOUNDATION
FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH
INTERNATIONAL BOARD FOR
CERTIFICATION OF GROUP
PSYCHOTHERAPISTS

25 East 21st Street
Sixth Floor
New York
New York 10010
877.668.AGPA (2472)
www.agpa.org

Media Contact:

Diane C. Feirman, CAE

877-668-AGPA (2472)

dfeirman@agpa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION PROVIDES A “TOGETHER WE CAN!” CAMP GALAXY DAY FOR CHILDREN OF AIR NATIONAL GUARD

NEW YORK, September 18, 2015 – Members of the American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) once again provided a Camp Galaxy Resiliency Day “Aim High...Achieve Together” on August 11, 2015 for the children of Guard members affiliated with the 106th Air National Guard Wing at Gabreski Air Force base in Westhampton Beach N.Y. as well as children with military parents in any of the services in the New York area.

This multiple-award winning program, which has received the Social Responsibility Award through the New York Society of Association Executives and was recognized by the American Society of Association Executive’s Associations Advance America program, was adapted from the GOALS (Going On After Loss) support program used with families after 9/11, to a Going On During War one-day program for military children. It is part of ongoing efforts to translate effective 9/11 programs to the needs of military families.

The goal of “Aim High...Achieve Together” AGPA Camp Galaxy Day was to offer military children a day of games and activities that underscored resilience and the power of going forward and facing challenges as a team. The AGPA team, integral to the success of the program, was led by Dr. Suzanne Phillips, Co-Chair of Community Outreach for AGPA, who was joined by four master teachers with specialties in art, science and crafts, six psychology doctoral students from LIU Post with an interest in group outreach to the military (one of whom is herself a major and a Blackhawk pilot), and three of the older children in the camp who served as Junior Counselors.

Divided into six age groups called “squadrons” designated with military names like Alpha, Charlie, Delta, etc., the children moved with excitement, competition and obvious enjoyment through many varied activities. They created squadron flags, experimented with science projects involving water surface tension and bubble making, and competed with beanbag tossing, mini car races, and relay races. The children were wonderful as were the military members of the 106th who welcomed and supported them. The actions and evaluations of everyone involved reflected the excitement and success of the day. Teacher and counselor comments included: “the children were totally engaged in the activities” “I really enjoyed these children.” “They were awesome all day and helped each other beautifully.” The Junior Counselors described their day as “amazing, excellent, exciting and fun.” The children were very enthusiastic and when asked what they learned when people work in a group they wrote: “It’s fun.” “We accomplish.” “Anything can happen.” “It makes something good better.”

“The AGPA Camp Galaxy Day is an outreach mission meant to use our understanding of the power of group to give something back to the children of military families who have given so much to all of us by their service,” said Dr. Suzanne Phillips, Co-Chair of AGPA’s Community Outreach Task Force and leader of the team that coordinated the day’s activities. “The connection of AGPA volunteer counselors, children and junior counselors was very moving and very effective.”

This program was supported in part by the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health to continue the valuable community outreach work being carried out by AGPA members nationally and internationally to a variety of communities in need. To support this work and to find out more about AGPA programs and services, please visit our website at www.agpa.org or contact Diane Feirman at the association office at 877-668-AGPA (2472).

About AGPA

The American Group Psychotherapy Association is the foremost professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy, operating through a tri-partite structure: AGPA, a professional and educational organization; the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, its philanthropic arm; and the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body. This multidisciplinary association has approximately 2,500 members, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, clinical mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, pastoral counselors and creative arts therapists, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential. The association has 26 local and regional societies located across the country. Its members are experienced mental health professionals who lead psychotherapy groups and various non-clinical groups. Many are organizational specialists who work with businesses, not-for-profit organizations, communities and other "natural" groups to help them improve their functioning.

About the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health

The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is a philanthropic organization dedicated to changing lives through therapeutic group work by advancing the most effective and innovative approaches to group therapy education, training, research and community outreach. Among the Foundation’s most vital roles is the recognition of excellence, promise, and vision by honoring those individuals and groups who have demonstrated these qualities with grants, awards and scholarships.

#