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PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION
GROUP FOUNDATION
FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH
INTERNATIONAL BOARD FOR
CERTIFICATION OF GROUP
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROUP FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH WILL PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TRAINING IN GROUP-BASED MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS IN NEW YORK CITY

NEW YORK, October 1, 2015—The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is now accepting applications for its Scholarship and Awards Program for the February 22 - 27, 2016 Annual Training of the American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA). This robust program is offered annually through the Group Foundation and supports the training of group therapists, including students and new professionals, public and private agency personnel, veterans' hospital and center staff, military clinicians and chaplains, and others providing mental health services to the public. The **early decision deadline is November 1, 2015**; applications are accepted after this date for review on a funds-available basis. The application and submission guidelines are available at the organizations' [website](#) or by calling the office at 877-668-AGPA (2472). The Group Foundation Scholarship Program is supported by private donations and grants; you can [contribute online](#) or contact the Foundation office.

"Many of those providing mental health services to underserved populations work in settings without the resources to support staff training," said Phyllis Cohen, Ph.D., Psy.D., CGP, LFAGPA, Chairwoman of the Group Foundation. "The Group Foundation is pleased to be able to help these professionals receive training and support so that they can increase their use of groups in providing services to those in need."

Past recipients have attested to the impact of the scholarship on their lives and that of their clients:

"I was also able to attend invaluable conference workshops to add to my knowledge and skills base for facilitating groups with children and adolescents as well as college student populations and individuals affected by trauma."

"I look forward to applying what I learned to my continued work with children, adolescents, and young adults involved in the foster care system."

"I have seen how groups are unique and powerful tools for change, and group dynamics are ever-present, and inescapable in everyday life. I consider these dynamics to be crucial to my efforts to affect change on individual, interpersonal, cultural, and institutional levels, and I intend to use groups to foster affiliation in an increasingly divisive society."

“The conference offered me the opportunity to network with professionals at colleges around the country, comparing programming and sharing new ideas. I returned to my counseling center with a list of ways to improve our quality of services to students.”

“The plenary talk about polyvagal theory was fascinating and related well to my current work with Veterans who have PTSD. I was thrilled to bring back my notes and discuss my new knowledge with my Veterans Affairs (VA) supervisors and apply it in therapy with Veterans.”

AGPA’s Annual Meeting attracts over 1,000 group therapists, researchers and scientists from around the world. Group therapists of all disciplines will gather to learn the most effective techniques in working with a variety of populations in groups, an increasingly utilized modality due to its effectiveness and cost-effectiveness, particularly in today’s economic climate. The Meeting theme, “Transformation in Group: From Isolation to Connection,” reflects the meeting’s emphasis on the power of groups to connect individuals, families and communities in meaningful ways to effect change on personal and societal levels. For more information, contact AGPA at 877-668-AGPA (2472) or visit www.agpa.org.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Media are invited to attend select sessions of the AGPA 2016 Annual Meeting. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfeirman@agpa.org or call 877-668-AGPA (2472).

About AGPA and the Group Foundation

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.

The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is a philanthropic organization that is committed to the fact that “Groups Change Lives” and believes in the power of group interventions to improve people’s quality of life. The Group Foundation supports group psychotherapy education, research, training, and information dissemination for the benefit of the public and professional communities. 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 awards and scholarships.

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