



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROUP FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH ANNOUNCES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOUTHWESTERN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

NEW YORK, July 29, 2016 – The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health announced today the establishment of the Southwestern Group Psychotherapy Scholarship. The fund will support a scholarship for the AGPA Annual Training week for a student, resident or new professional residing in Texas, Arizona, Arkansas, New Mexico, or Oklahoma. It is being awarded for the first time this year at the 2017 New York City Annual Meeting.

The scholarship was endowed by The Southwestern Group Psychotherapy Society, which after 59 years of supporting group psychotherapy in these states determined it had fulfilled its original purpose and decided to disband. The Society's Leadership as part of the decision found a way to continue its work through an endowment gift of its remaining assets to the Group Foundation's annual scholarship program.

"For 59 years the Southwestern Group Psychotherapy Society has promoted group psychotherapy and provided valuable training in our region," said Alberto C. Serrano, M.D., DLFAGPA, President of the Society. "At this bittersweet time, we are proud to be able to memorialize our Society and continue this tradition of providing valuable training through a Group Foundation scholarship."

"The Group Foundation is grateful to the Southwestern GPS and its leadership for their generosity in establishing this scholarship fund," said Karen Travis, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA, Chairwoman of the Group Foundation. "Providing scholarships for group therapy training is a program at the heart of the Foundation's mission and their endowment shows great leadership in helping to make it happen."

The Foundation's scholarship program is a highlight of the AGPA's 2017 Annual Training in New York City. Entitled "Connecting, Educating, and Leading for 75 Years: The Theory, Science, and Practice of Group Therapy," this meeting will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of AGPA and its work supporting the group psychotherapy field. More than 1,000 group therapists, researchers and scientists of all disciplines from around the world 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.

For more information, contact AGPA at (877) 668-AGPA (2472) or visit www.agpa.org. You can also visit our website for more information on this and other scholarships, the Foundation's programs or to contribute to the Foundation. If you are interested in finding out more about endowing a scholarship or other program, please contact the Foundation office at dfairman@agpa.org or by phone at 877-668-AGPA (2472).

About AGPA and the Group Foundation

The American Group Psychotherapy Association has been for 75 years 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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