



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

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

NEW YORK, October 13, 2016—The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is now accepting applications for its Scholarship and Awards Program for the March 6-11, 2017 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, 2016**; 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.

This is a particularly exciting year to attend the training as it is the 75th Anniversary Meeting of the AGPA and the organization will be celebrating its long and valuable history of supporting the group psychotherapy field and the group clinicians helping individuals and communities utilizing this powerful specialization of therapy.

"Many of those providing mental health services to underserved populations work in settings without the resources to support staff training," said Karen S. Travis, LCSW, BCD, CGP, FAGPA, 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 returned to work with children, adolescents, and adults with serious mental illness, with lots of information and new strategies to implement into my practice."

"I am indebted to the training I received at the Annual Meeting because I learned how to facilitate effective group experiences for incarcerated youth."

“The conference workshops on adolescent group work and engaging racism and oppressions in groups also connected me to critical resources and hands-on training.”

“All of this has allowed me to return home to Jerusalem...a more fulfilled and enlightened therapist. I feel I have gained a new resourcefulness that will allow me to work as a wiser and more creative therapist working to resolve interpersonal conflicts based on cultural differences. I hope to be able to extract people from situations of loneliness and violence brought on by anxiety.”

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, “Connecting, Educating, and Leading for 75 Years: The Theory, Science, and Practice of Group Therapy” celebrates AGPA’s history of 75 years of demonstrating 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 2017 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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