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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION PROVIDES “CAMP GALAXY” DAY FOR CHILDREN OF DEPLOYED AIR NATIONAL GUARD

NEW YORK, Aug. 20, 2009 – Members of the American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) provided a “Mission Accomplished” Camp Galaxy Day on August 12, 2009 for the children of deployed Guard members at the 106th Air National Guard Wing at Gabeski Air Force base in Westhampton Beach N.Y.

The program adapted 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, an important step in translating an effective 9/11 program to the needs of military families. The program addresses resiliency, team building, coping skills, trust, and the meaning of being in a military family through the use of a series of interesting and fun “missions” and challenges.

Forty (40) children enjoyed the day of activities and at the end of the program, the Base Commander awarded the official Gabeski Air Force Base Coin to the team members in appreciation for the AGPA Camp Day.

“It has been demonstrated that the stress of parental deployment can adversely affect children in military families,” said Dr. Suzanne Phillips, Co-Chair of AGPA’s Community Outreach Task Force and a leader of the team that coordinated the day’s activities. “AGPA was able to adapt its trauma response protocols, based upon the 9/11 response, to address the unique needs of children in military families.”

Additional team members included Marney Rhoda, Administrator of the GOALS program, Gina Sita, Christopher Keller, and Sara Elnahal (from the Long Island University Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program on the Brookville Campus), and Maureen Underwood, creator of the 9/11 GOALS program (who served as a consultant) and Lisa D’Agostino, Wing Family Coordinator at Gabeski Air Force Base.

This program was supported in part by the Group Psychotherapy Foundation, which is working 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 Psychotherapy Foundation, its philanthropic arm; and the National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body. This multidisciplinary association has approximately 3,000 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 31 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 Psychotherapy Foundation 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 Foundation supports group psychotherapy education, research, training, community outreach programs 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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