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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION PROVIDES “THE RIGHT STUFF” CAMP GALAXY DAY FOR CHILDREN OF DEPLOYED AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

**NEW YORK, Sept. 10, 2010** – Members of the American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) provided a “The Right Stuff” Camp Galaxy Day on August 17, 2010 for the children of deployed Guard members at the 106<sup>th</sup> Air National Guard Wing at Gables Air Force base in Westhampton Beach N.Y. as well as children from military parents in any of the services in the New York area.

This program, which was recognized by the ASAE & The Center for Association Leadership’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 program uses metaphor and interesting activities, competitions and fun exercises to invite awareness of the children’s resiliency as individuals as well as the value and potential of working as a group, family and large military family.

47 children enjoyed the day of activities in which the AGPA team worked side by side with military personnel from the base.

“As members of AGPA, we were delighted to offer this Camp Day again and to experience the value of groups in celebrating the joy and possibilities that children deserve,” 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. “It was clear to us that the 106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing, their staff and families, and particularly the children participating in this Camp Galaxy Day had “The Right Stuff.””

Dr. Phillips was joined in coordinating the day’s activities by Marney Rhoda, Administrator of the GOALS program and Lisa D’Agostino, Wing Family Coordinator at Gables Air Force Base. Additional team members included Sara Elnahal, Adam Koblenz, Erica Meyers, Anne Nolan, Jessica Rabinow and Richard Restivo.

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](http://www.agpa.org) or contact Diane Feirman at the association office at 877-668-AGPA (2472).

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### ***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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