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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

NEW YORK, Oct. 22, 2010—The Group Psychotherapy Foundation is now accepting applications for its Scholarship and Awards Program for the February 28- March 5, 2011 Annual Meeting of the American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA). This robust program is offered annually through the 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 consideration deadline is November 1, 2010**; applications are accepted after this date for review on a funds-available basis. The application and submission guidelines are available at the organizations' website at <http://www.agpa.org/stdnt/gpfshawds.html> or by calling the office at 877-668-AGPA (2472). The GPF Scholarship Program is supported by private donations and grants; to contribute please visit the website at <http://member.agpa.org/scriptcontent/index.cfm?gpf=1> 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 Lisa Mahon, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA, Chairwoman of the GPF. “The 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, personally and professionally:

“I have a wealth of information I am eager to bring back and implement with my child and family groups. You will never know how important a gift this is has been for me and the population I serve.”

“This scholarship allowed me to remain connected to your organization, an organization that continuously motivates, inspires and pushes me to expand my mind in this field while better serving the veterans I work with.”

“My mind was refreshed in the meeting and I felt empowered when I came back to China.”

“I ended up taking something unique from each of these groups which will help in my work with clients.”

“I attended presentations related to veterans’ care, given my work in a VA Hospital, and was able to take this information and directly apply it to my own organization.”

AGPA’s Annual Meeting attracts more than 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, “Group as a Source of Resilience and Change,” reflects the meeting’s emphasis on the power of groups to effect change that contributes to societal strength and well-being. 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 2011 Annual Meeting. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfeirman@agpa.org or call 877-668-AGPA (2472).

About AGPA and GPF

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, 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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