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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY FOUNDATION LUNCHEON IN CHICAGO, IL CELEBRATES SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD WINNERS AND CONTRIBUTORS FEBRUARY 21, 2009

NEW YORK, Feb. 10 , 2009— During the American Group Psychotherapy Association’s (AGPA) 66th Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL, Feb. 16-21, the Group Psychotherapy Foundation (GPF), the philanthropic arm of the AGPA, will once again sponsor a luncheon honoring scholarship and award winners, as well as the generous contributors who make the program possible. A myriad of tuition, travel and monetary awards, supporting the training of group therapists and the use of group in communities to effect change, are distributed through the Foundation. A highlight of the celebration will be a performance by the IO Theatre, the acclaimed improvisation troupe specializing in performers working together as a group (legendary alumni include Mike Meyers, Tina Fey and Amy Poehler). Media are invited to attend this event.

Awards being presented include:

- Music Theatre Workshop of Chicago, IL is receiving the Aaron Stein Memorial Award for the creative use of groups in non-therapeutic settings to benefit the community.
- The Alonso Award for Excellence in Psychodynamic Group Therapy will be presented for the publication “Practice Guidelines for Group Psychotherapy.”
- More than 100 individuals have received scholarships to attend the meeting, supported through endowed scholarship funds and private donations.

“The Group Psychotherapy Foundation is privileged to honor those whose use of groups in clinical and community settings helps those in need,” said Lisa Mahon, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA, GPF Chairwoman of the Board. “This luncheon is also our opportunity to publicly thank our donors, whose generous contributions make it possible for us to carry out our mission, including supporting the training of those new to the field.”

This luncheon is a highlight of the AGPA's 2009 Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL, February 16-21 at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers. Entitled "Strong Group Foundations: Building Lasting Communities," this meeting attracts more than 1,000 group therapists, researchers and scientists from around the United States. Group therapists of all disciplines will gather to learn the most effective techniques in working with a variety of populations and to further their professional development with this powerful and effective treatment modality. The theme reflects the meeting's emphasis on the positive effects of well-functioning groups on society. For more information, contact AGPA at (877) 668-AGPA (2472) or visit www.agpa.org.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Media are invited to attend other select sessions of the AGPA 2009 Annual Meeting. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfeirman@agpa.org or call 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.