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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGPA ANNOUNCES GROUP THERAPY TRAINING SUPPORT FOR CLINICIANS AND CHAPLAINS WORKING WITH ACTIVE MILITARY AND VETERANS

NEW YORK, October 29, 2008— The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) welcomes all clinicians and chaplains working with active military and veterans to its 66th Annual Meeting entitled “Strong Group Foundations: Building Lasting Communities,” Feb. 16-21, 2009 at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers in Chicago, IL. In recognition of the care and service such individuals have been providing to the men and women who have served, current and past, in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and missions throughout the world, AGPA is offering full tuition scholarships through the Group Psychotherapy Foundation, the organization’s charitable arm or a 50% registration discount for this conference if they prefer to apply and register directly.

“The AGPA Annual Meeting offers high quality training in group interventions, as well as a variety of self-care events so those in the helping fields can rejuvenate themselves,” said Connie Concannon, M.S.W., CGP, FAGPA, AGPA President. “We are privileged to be able to provide this support to those who are supporting the men and women of the U.S. military and veterans.”

There are a variety of educational opportunities on the program with relevance for military personnel and veterans’ hospital and agency staff, including:

- “Using Groups for Trauma Intervention,” a two-day training course which teaches techniques in working with specific populations following traumatic events, including first responders and the military
- “Group Therapy Application for Returning Veterans,” outlining a program specifically developed to address the unique needs of veterans
- “Transition Issues in Returning Military Personnel,” which covers crucial issues with regard to war zone stress, PTSD and suicide.

AGPA’s 2009 Annual 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, Strong Group Foundations: Building Lasting Communities, 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 oldest and largest 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.

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