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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION OFFERS DISASTER-RELIEF AND TRAUMA RESPONSE RESOURCES ON WEBSITE AT [WWW.AGPA.ORG](http://WWW.AGPA.ORG)

**NEW YORK, Sept. 5, 2008** – In response to hurricane season and a summer filled with natural disasters globally, the American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) reminds the public, mental health clinicians, and media that it offers a wide-range of resources on disaster relief and group interventions for trauma on its website – [www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org).

Feature articles directed towards the public provide tools for recognizing trauma, suggestions on finding an appropriate caregiver and offer coping strategies. Resources for mental health practitioners include guidelines on using group psychotherapy as a trauma treatment tool, guidelines for working with first responders, and information on how caregivers can make sure to care for themselves.

Publications and training curricula are also available, including:

***Group Interventions for the Treatment of Psychological Trauma***, which contains 10 modules designed to address trauma group work with specific populations and circumstances as well as a CD including Power Point Slide Presentations for each module.

***Public Mental Health Service Delivery Protocols: Group Interventions for Disaster Preparedness and Response*** - a set of best practice clinical interventions, specific to various populations and transferable to any locale, in any type of disaster, on the beneficial use of groups as a therapeutically and cost-effective community based intervention.

In-service trainings can be arranged by contacting the Association office.

“Group interventions naturally lend themselves to the healing and resiliency of communities,” said Connie Concannon, M.S.W., CGP, FAGPA, AGPA President. “As the nation’s leading group psychotherapy organization, AGPA is dedicated to insuring that the professional mental health community, the public and media outlets have information and resources they need to support their communities during and following challenging times.”

For more information on group interventions in response to disaster, please contact Diane Feirman, CAE, at (212) 477-2677 or via e-mail at [dfeirman@agpa.org](mailto:dfeirman@agpa.org).

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## ***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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