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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY FOUNDATION LAUNCHES “HONOR YOUR MENTOR” PROGRAM

NEW YORK, June 3, 2009 — The Group Psychotherapy Foundation announced the launch of its “Honor Your Mentor” program, a campaign of appreciation to recognize mentors and emphasize the importance of their leadership qualities in fostering the personal and professional development of those in the group psychotherapy field. The program is an opportunity for individuals to express their personal appreciation to their mentors and the direct and indirect gifts they have given them.

A highlight of the program will be an essay contest in which entrants will honor the mentor of their choice. Entry requirements will be as follows:

- The essay should honor an individual who was significant in your life; they could be a grandparent, a professor, a colleague, a giant in the field, a childhood friend, etc. The definition is purposefully broad with the key component being that they made a difference in your life.
- The essay should be no more than 300 words and highlight the significance of this individual’s impact on you.
- The essay must be submitted to the Group Psychotherapy Foundation electronically by November 1, 2009 to dfeirman@agpa.org.

All entries will be evaluated and the winner chosen by the Foundation’s Scholarship and Awards Committee. The winning essay will be published in the Foundation’s newsletter, *Group Assets* and the winner and their mentor will be honored along with other mentors and mentees at the Foundation’s luncheon at the 2010 Meeting in San Diego.

“The Group Psychotherapy Foundation fosters a culture of recognition and giving,” said Lisa Mahon, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA, Chairwoman of the GPF Board of Directors. “This new ‘Honor Your Mentor’ program will honor the spirit of that culture while giving many of us the opportunity to publicly thank someone of import in our lives.”

People are also encouraged to make donations to the Group Psychotherapy Foundation in honor of their mentors. Online contributions can be made at <http://member.agpa.org/scriptcontent/index.cfm?gpf=1>. Contributions and their honorees will be acknowledged in Foundation publications and at the luncheon, so please be sure to note your mentor’s name to insure proper recognition.

About AGPA and GPF

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.

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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