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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGPA RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE JACOB AND VALERIA LANGELOTH FOUNDATION

Grant Supports Publication and Dissemination of Mental Health Service Protocols for Disaster Response

NEW YORK, Feb. 10, 2005 — The American Group Psychotherapy Association has received a grant from The Jacob and Valeria Langeloth Foundation to publish and disseminate mental health service delivery protocols for disaster response. This grant will allow the completion of an important project begun with seed funding from The Time Warner Foundation, The Brown Foundation of Texas, The New York Times 9/11 Neediest Fund and the United States Center for Mental Health Services.

These protocols will be a set of best practice clinical interventions, specific to various populations and transferable to any locale, in response to any type of disaster. They are being produced in a collaborative effort among top mental health professionals who delivered services in the aftermath of 9/11. The grant provides funds for the publication of these protocols as well as a variety of in-person and distance-based training opportunities. The need for such protocols is dramatically underscored by the recent tragic events in Southeast Asia. The mental health needs of those affected in this area are requiring large-scale, coordinated relief efforts for which written protocols could be easily shared among those participating.

“This project brings together all of those who have been developing models for intervention for the purpose of sharing what we have learned,” said Robert Klein, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA, AGPA president. “The publication of these protocols and training opportunities has the potential to prepare and to help an enormous number of people in future disaster situations.”

Populations being addressed include:

Children and Adolescents
Survivors/Witnesses
Uniformed Service Workers
Helpers/Service Delivery Workers

Community Outreach Program
Workplace/Systems/Organizations
Funders

For more information, contact Diane Feirman, CAE, at (212) 477-2677 or via e-mail at dfeirman@agpa.org.

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, 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.