

# Group Assets



The Newsletter of the  
Group Psychotherapy  
Foundation

Fall 2005

## Group Psychotherapy Foundation Invites Applications for 2006 Scholarships and Awards for Annual Meeting

Fern Cramer-Azima, PhD, DFAGPA, Editor, *Group Assets*

The Group Psychotherapy Foundation's Scholarship and Awards Program offers financial support to those wishing to further their professional development by attending the AGPA Annual Institute and Conference. Attending the Annual Meeting allows recipients to learn and grow personally and professionally, making connections that will last a lifetime. And as Jennifer Meyer, a 2005 scholarship recipient from Texas wrote, to become "hooked on group therapy." The following excerpts of correspondence received from just a few of the 2005 recipients demonstrate the value of attending the AGPA Annual Meeting and how important these awards were in allowing them to do so.

Nhi-Ha Trinh, MD, writes: "So much to say, but so hard to say it all;

mostly: thank you. The Conference was a life-changing, life-affirming experience. I got to know our colleagues in a way that was truly inspiring. The two-day Institutes in particular were really wonderful. I will certainly make the AGPA Institute and Conference a yearly event on my calendar (I've already put it in for next year in San Francisco!), and hope to one day contribute and sponsor future participants/trainees!"

Jessey Bernstein, PhD, writes: "I am extremely grateful for the existence of these scholarships: as a student and now a new professional, I would not have been able to afford to attend otherwise. Which would have meant that I would have missed out on some of the most memorable training and growth experiences I have had. It is both the

organization of the Conference and the people who attend and bring it to life that make the Annual Meeting so influential. I am now "hooked" on AGPA and hope to continue to attend these meetings for a long time to come.... Particularly in the two-day Institute, but also in many of the other workshops and sessions I took, I felt grateful to be able to listen to and interact with so many people who share it all: their deeply personal experiences, opinions, and expertise. I think it is a testament to the values that AGPA holds, as well as to the set-up of its programming (both the content and the structure), that it draws so many open and wise people, and creates a space where they feel safe enough to share so honestly and fully. I feel like the Annual Meeting is an oasis on which I will be able to rely, in upcoming years, for continued support, education and personal growth as a group therapist. I recall leaving last year and marveling at the existence of so many therapeutically like-minded people, and feeling secure in the knowledge that many of them congregate in one place about once a year!

"Finally, I have to say that I love the Friday-night dance that is organized. This is partly because it is a chance to connect with many people who I've only had a few moments to chat with, and in a laid-back atmosphere. It also helps with a bit of closure: even though the conference ends Saturday, the dance is a place to start to say goodbye. And finally, I love that it allows the older and younger of us to mingle in a way that is non-hierarchical. For young therapists like me, it is a really nice way to have some fun with colleagues who I might otherwise not want to disturb."

Jason Carpenter, MA, writes: "Before attending the 2005 Annual Meeting a number of my mentors described for me their previous experi-

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## How To Apply Deadline: November 30, 2005

### All Scholarship candidates are requested to:

1. Submit a curriculum vitae and a one-page statement of reasons for wishing to attend the Annual Meeting, including present and future goals, with particular focus on their plans in the area of group therapy.
2. Submit a completed Scholarship Applicant Profile.
3. Submit a completed Annual Meeting Registration Form.
4. Submit a completed AGPA Membership application form if not already a member. Do not include payment; eligible nonmembers are awarded membership as part of the Scholarship.
5. Submit two letters of recommendation, preferably from AGPA or Affiliate Societies members.

### All Award candidates are requested to:

1. Submit a letter of introduction from either the candidate or the person recommending the candidate that clearly states why the candidate's particular work should be considered for the award.
2. Send a copy of the project being recommended (unless it is an article from the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, in which case a reference is sufficient).
3. Submit a curriculum vitae of the person or group being recommended.
4. Award applicants also need to submit two references from recognized authorities in the area of the work either from within or outside AGPA.

Required forms and more detailed explanations of each scholarship are available on AGPA's website at [www.agpa.org/stdnt/gpfschawds.html](http://www.agpa.org/stdnt/gpfschawds.html). Additional questions? E-mail: [info@agpa.org](mailto:info@agpa.org).

If you are interested in contributing to the 2006 Annual Meeting Scholarship Fund, contact the GPF office at 212-477-2677 or visit our website at [www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org) and click "Donate Now." Your donation will assist us in helping many qualified candidates attend the Meeting.

ences. I had been told of the opportunity for professional growth, the feeling of camaraderie between peers, and the renewed vigor with which they returned to work. I had seen them return from previous Annual Meetings with all of these qualities and more. I attended with high hopes and some sense of anxiety, as it was my first con-

*continued on back*

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