



AMERICAN GROUP  
PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION  
GROUP FOUNDATION  
FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH  
INTERNATIONAL BOARD FOR  
CERTIFICATION OF GROUP  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **GROUP FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH ESTABLISHES A SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN THE NAME OF KAREN S. TRAVIS**

**NEW YORK, July 20, 2021**— The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is pleased to announce the establishment of a new scholarship fund in the name of AGPA member Karen S. Travis, LCSW, BCD, CGP, FAGPA, immediate past Chairwoman of the Foundation. The intent of the fund is to target the next generation of early career and new professionals working with underserved populations, who are either currently running groups or have a strong interest in doing so, to ensure their attendance at the AGPA Connect Annual Meeting for access to more training and educational resources. Group psychotherapy saves lives and sustains communities, and training the next generation of mental health professionals is only becoming ever more crucial with the urgent mental health crises we face today, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and our nation’s reckoning with institutionalized racism.

Karen has been a dedicated member of the AGPA community and champion of the Foundation for decades, serving two terms as Chairwoman of the Foundation, in addition to a number of AGPA governance positions since 1992, including Secretary. Karen has also been active in her local Affiliate Society, the Louisiana GPS, since the mid-1980s. AGPA and the Group Foundation, in particular the training and mentorship opportunities available through the scholarship program, have always been special to Karen and this is why she chose to establish this fund in the Group Foundation, with the support of her family, friends and colleagues.

“We are delighted to honor Karen with this fund,” says Darryl L. Pure, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA, Chairman of the Group Foundation Board of Directors. “Her commitment to fundraising for the Foundation, through the creation of a mental health specialist training series and her consistent advocacy for the scholarship program, is why Karen is the perfect representation of what the Foundation stands for at its core.”

At the heart of the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health and AGPA is the desire to enhance the number and the quality of effectively led therapeutic groups in the public and private sectors internationally. To accomplish this we reach out to students, early career professionals and mental health professionals working in public settings and offer them scholarships to assist them in attending the AGPA Connect Annual Training, where they receive exposure to safe and stimulating group experiences and an opportunity to learn from the most experienced and talented group therapists. The Karen Travis

Scholarship Fund will be an important addition to this program. The application is now available online for AGPA Connect 2022 in Denver [here](#).

For more information, contact the Group Foundation at (877) 668-AGPA (2472) or [dfeirman@agpa.org](mailto:dfeirman@agpa.org) or visit [www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org).

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### *About AGPA and the Group Foundation*

The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is the foremost professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy, operating through a tri-partite structure: AGPA, a professional and educational organization; the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, its philanthropic arm; and the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body. AGPA represents over 2,000 mental health professional members including psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers, as well as mental health, family, and pastoral counselors, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential. 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 association also has 21 local and regional societies located across the country.

AGPA is committed to supporting the dignity and psychological safety of every individual without discrimination regarding race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sex, age, or disability. Central to our mission is a belief in the power of groups to treat mental illness, heal the scars from traumatic events, and enhance the well-being of adults and children in their families, schools, corporate settings, and communities.

The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health 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 Group 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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