I was delighted to receive an announcement from Phyllis Cohen, PhD, PsyD, CGP, LFAGPA, Foundation Chair, with exciting news, which I would like to share with you.

“Let me begin by thanking you. Your enthusiasm and responsiveness to our requests for help at the end of the June 30, 2015 funding year was greatly appreciated. Many of you reached out to family, friends, and colleagues or gave additional gifts or sent in your pledge for the June 30th deadline. Your efforts made a tremendous difference and the response has been very gratifying.

Because of all of your generosity and support, the Group Foundation raised over $400,000. This figure is the highest amount we have ever raised. Our membership is giving generously and your emails, calls and letters to people outside of our usual giving circle is resulting in more gifts. The local events in honor of people and hosted by local societies are introducing new and fun ways for people to support our mission.

“Our gifts are also allowing the Group Foundation to continue funding for the work of the Tri-Organizations, including publication of the training manuals, research grants, community outreach activities, and our scholarship and awards programs. All parts of this Tri-Organization benefit from the contributions we raise so that we are able to support the group training and programs that help change lives. It takes our asking and your giving to continue the work that means so much to all of us.

“I cannot express enough the Foundation’s gratitude to everyone who gave and those of you who reached out and asked others to give and support our organizations. We appreciate all you have done to make this year a resounding success for the Group Foundation and those who depend on us. Enjoy the rest of your summer!”

Who said, “No news is good news.” This news is not only good but it’s downright inspiring. The inspiration comes in knowing that this was clearly a group effort that was shared by our membership, the Affiliate Societies, and the leadership of the Tri-Organizational Boards all working together to realize this great accomplishment.

As Phyllis said, we have reached out beyond our membership to the communities in which we live and work to let them know about our work and our personal dedication to the education and practice of group. We have shared these stories through personal phone calls, letters, emails, and sometimes over coffee or dinner. As the word has spread about our experience, contributions from our members and leadership have increased as have the contributions from people outside of our professional community, with our individual gifts increasing over last year, demonstrating increased confidence in and support of the Group Foundation’s mission.

Local Affiliate Societies have also joined the group effort by co-sponsoring with the Foundation special events honoring people who have made significant contributions to their communities and local societies. These events bring together the honorees’ family and friends with their professional community, resulting in a wonderful gathering that is a cross fertilization of our worlds. Many wonderful stories and testimonies are shared that honor the person.

This year was a banner year for us at many levels. Working together we achieved something that we could only have dreamed of 10 years ago. We have been able to meet our strategic planning goals and support the work of our mission statement.

Connie Concannon, LCSW, CGP, DFAGPA, Editor, Group Assets

Applying for a Scholarship Today

Attending the AGPA Annual Meeting allows recipients to learn and grow personally and professionally in connections that will last a lifetime.

Through the generosity of its donors, the Group Foundation will again offer multiple funding opportunities to attend AGPA’s 2016 Annual Meeting, February 22-27 in New York City. Among the available awards and scholarships are:

- the Anne Alonso Scholarship; the Donald T. Brown GLBT Memorial Scholarship; the Barry Bukatzman M.D. Memorial AGPA Scholarship; the Josephine M. Cunningham Tervelion Scholarship; the Durkin-Gilitzer Scholarship; the Howard and Barbara Goldstein Scholarship; the Ruth Hochberg-Tervalon Scholarship; the International Scholarship; the Susan Jensen Scholarship; the Lorelle H. Machen, Ph.D. Memorial Scholarship; the Saul Scheidinger Scholarship; the Mary M. Tanenbaum Scholarship; the Robert E. White M.D. and Sara Jane White, Ph.D. Scholarship; the Byron and Carla Wilkenfeld Psychiatric Resident Scholarship; and tuition-only scholarships through the Education and Scholarship Fund.

For a full listing of all the scholarships, visit AGPA’s website at www.agpa.org/scholarships, where there is detailed information and required application forms. The early deadline is November 1, 2015. Additional questions? Email: dfeilman@agpa.org.

If you are interested in contributing to the Group Foundation to help qualify candidates attend the 2016 Annual Meeting in New York, contact the Foundation office at 212-477-2677 or visit the website and click on Donate Now.

Applications Being Accepted for a New Scholarship This Year!

The Group Foundation is accepting applications for the new Lorelle H. Machen, Ph.D. Memorial Scholarship. The foundation supports a scholarship for the AGPA Annual Training week for an individual who demonstrates experience in or a commitment to work in an agency or institutional setting with the severe and persistent mentally ill.

The scholarship was endowed by Leslie Vestkich and Eleanor Counselman, Ed.D., CGP, LFAGPA, in memory of Leslie’s Mother (Eleanor’s Aunt), who spent much of her career working on behalf of this population. The Group Foundation is grateful to Ms. Vestkich and Dr. Counselman for their generosity in establishing this scholarship fund.

Legacy Society

We appreciate the provisions these planned gift donors have made for the Group Foundation.

Ramon Alonso
Shari & Allan Baron
Patricia & Melie Barth
Richard Beck
Marsha Block & Leonard Walter
Trish Cleary & Diana Kunkel
Phyllis Cohen
Jerry & Nancy Gans
Katie Griffin
David Hawkins
Sally Henry
Jeffrey Hudson & Robert Blodgett
Suzanne Jensen
Celi Keeper
Lisa Mahon & Phil Flores
Keith Rand & John D’Amico
Lorraine Wolodka
Elliot Zeisel & Mary Sussillo & Family
2015 Contributions to the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health

Gifts acknowledged here are from January 1, 2015 through July 15, 2015

Additional Foundation Awards and Grants

In addition to its extensive Scholarship Program, the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health presents the following awards:

**The Social Responsibility Award**, to be presented at the 2016 AGPA Annual Meeting (February 22-27 in New York), recognizes an AGPA member or group of members whose exceptional service benefits the public-at-large, either locally or internationally. This can include, for example, training professionals who have provided group interventions or direct services to a community in need, or those who have provided extensive pro bono work (deadline: for nominations for this award is only October 1, 2015.)

The Foundation supports research that demonstrates the effectiveness of group psychotherapy. A highlight of this program is an essay contest in which entrants express their personal appreciation for the mentor of their choice.

**The Almo Award for Excellence in Psychodynamic Group Theory** reasserts, in a concrete way, the value of original thinking about psychodynamic group theory. Individuals may qualify in a variety of ways. Suitable entries include doctoral dissertations, videos, published papers, and other creative research.

**The Aaron Stein Memorial Fund** annually recognizes organizations in the locale of the upcoming Annual Meeting that utilize the creative applications of group theory and technique to benefit the community, particularly in non-psychotherapeutic settings.

Detailed award and grant descriptions, as well as application requirements, can be found on the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health website. The application deadline for these Group Foundation programs, unless otherwise noted, is November 1, 2015. For additional information, contact Diane Feirman, CAE, Public Affairs Senior Director, at 212-477-2677 or dffeirman@agpa.org.