The Ripple Effect
Connie Concannon, LCSW, CGP, DFAGPA, Editor, Group Assets

When we come together March 6-11 in New York City to celebrate AGPA’s 75th Anniversary, we will be part of a group that has strong representation of the multi-generations that make up our membership. This is a milestone anniversary in many ways. After 75 years, we are thriving, growing, and continuing to promote our belief that group psychotherapy is an integral part of mental health treatment. This is an accomplishment that we can be proud of and is more evidence that group works at many different levels. It works at the organizational level; it works as a key component in teaching and training; and it works in private and public mental health settings providing the highest standard of care.

The fact that AGPA is flourishing as an organization after 75 years can, in part, be credited to the significant role that the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health has played in developing our Scholarship Program and your generosity in building this dynamic outreach effort. When we meet next year, you will see the fruits of all of our efforts when you see the sea of young faces and voices that are filling our meeting. It is both inspiring and comforting to know that we have built a bridge to the next generation to create professional competency and a place to be a part of a strong and nurturing community. The recipients of our Scholarship Program have reflected on what this opportunity has meant to them on an educational level, how this has impacted them in their professional settings, and what it means to them to be part of a professional community. If you haven’t yet done so, I encourage you to watch the video of Scholarship Program recipients on our website. Among those recipients were Katie Van Spuybroek and her colleague Ned Peck. Katie was one of the new professionals who I brought in through the Group Foundation Board of Directors, all of whom are committed to supporting the Group Foundation’s work.

Barbara and Albert Dazzo Scholarship
This scholarship supports attendance for the AGPA Annual Training Week for a student, resident, or new professional residing in Texas, New Mexico, Arkansas, Oklahoma, or Arizona. The scholarship was endowed by Barbara Dazzo, PhD, LCSW, CGP-R, FAGPA, a long-time AGPA member and current member of the Group Foundation Board of Directors, her husband Albert, and their son Stephen. All of whom are committed to supporting those doing this difficult work by helping them obtain training and support. The Group Foundation is grateful to the Dazzo Family for its generosity in establishing this scholarship fund.

Southwestern Group Psychotherapy Scholarship: This scholarship supports attendance for the AGPA Annual Training Week for a student, resident, or new professional residing in Texas, New Mexico, Arkansas, Oklahoma, or Arizona. The scholarship was endowed by The Southwestern Group Psychotherapy Society, which after 59 years of supporting group psychotherapy in these areas determined it had fulfilled its original purpose and decided to disband. While doing so, it elected to memorialize its work through an endowment gift of its remaining assets. The Group Foundation is grateful to the Southwestern GSPs and its leadership for their generosity in establishing this scholarship fund.

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Applications Being Accepted For Two New Scholarships This Year!
In addition to the many endowed and donated scholarships currently available, this year, the Foundation is accepting applications for two new endowed scholarships.

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Legacy Society
We appreciate the provisions these planned gift donors have made for the Group Foundation.
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Apply for a Scholarship Today
Applying for a Scholarship allows recipients to learn and grow personally and professionally, making 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 2017 Annual Meeting, celebrating its 75th Anniversary, March 6-11 in New York City. To apply for one of these scholarships, visit AGPA’s website at www.agpa.org/Foundation/scholarships for detailed information and required application forms. Application deadline is November 1, 2016. Additional questions? Email charter@agpa.org.

If you are interested in contributing to the Group Foundation to help qualified candidates attend the 2017 Annual Meeting in New York, contact the Foundation office at 212-477-2677 or visit the website and click on Donate Now.

Fulfilling the Promise
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Our sincerest appreciation is expressed to these endowment donors in support of our program.
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Additional Foundation Awards and Grants

In addition to its extensive Scholarship Program, the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health has presented the following awards this year:

• The Social Responsibility Award, to be presented at the 2017 AGPA Annual Meeting, recognizes an individual or group that is giving so much to the next generation, and itself is October 1, 2016.

The Group Foundation Honor Your Mentor Program is an opportunity for you to express your personal appreciation for your mentor with an acknowledgment of the two-day process group, educational events, and the wonderful group of participants fueled my passion for group psychotherapy.” This reflects the fact that we are not only teaching and training but we are shaping the next generation of group therapists.

It’s important to note that these statements are just a small sample of hundreds of others we have received, each echoing the same sentiment. These comments are so encouraging and inspiring. I feel so proud to know that I’m part of a professional community that provides a valuable experience for people like me. I hope my work with the students in my counseling center and my renewed confidence in the power of group therapy justifies my investment.

Donating to our Scholarship Program is a great investment that provides a positive outcome. Attending AGPA’s Annual Meeting goes beyond making a better therapist. From all I have heard and read, it makes attendees feel that they have become better people.

Let’s keep up this investment and, perhaps, dig a little deeper as the Group Foundation conducts its 75th Anniversary Campaign to continue to provide this experience for more people. Let’s keep the ripple moving from the conference out into the greater world.