Endowed Funds: Helping Today, Securing Tomorrow

Each year, the Group Foundation engages in fundraising activities to support the ongoing programs of the Foundation. We have yearly fundraising goals to ensure that the Leadership Fund and the Education and Scholarship Fund have sufficient income to support the work that is integral to the Group Foundation’s mission to advancing the most effective and innovative approaches to group therapy education, training, research, and community outreach. However, yearly fundraising can be highly variable, depending on so many factors related to donors’ personal circumstances, which in turn can be affected by the economic climate and societal issues. This is where another source of Group Foundation funding plays a valuable role—endowed funds.

An endowed fund is a set pool of invested money that provides a reliable source of income in perpetuity for a designated purpose. The annual distributions from an endowed fund, usually 4-5%, come from its investment income and provide support for an activity on a yearly basis while preserving its principal so the activity can continue. The financial readiness afforded by such funds in turn provides program stability so that mission-based activities are not subject to the fluctuations in annual giving.

Endowed funds are playing an increasingly important role in the Group Foundation’s work, particularly in the area of education and training. Sixteen events at the annual AGPA Connect meet are supported through endowed funds. This includes 13 sessions through gifts to a consolidated educational endowment established as part of the capital campaign, two plenary sessions (the Alonso Plenary and the Mitchell Hochberg Memorial Public Education Event), and an annual scholarship (the Louis Ormont Lecture). Endowed funds also provide the opportunity to invite high-level speakers on timely and important topics.

Additionally, 15 scholarships annually provided to AGPA Connect are supported through endowed funds and provide the additional opportunity to support travel expenses for those attendees. There are also two annual Foundation awards that provide recognition to group work that advances the field (Alonso Award for Excellence in Psychodynamic Group Theory) and benefits local communities (Aaron Stein Memorial Award). These programs, awards, and scholarships are insured to take place each year due to the generosity of the donors who established these funds. We are extremely grateful to them all (please see the sidebar for the current list of donors).

Donors establish endowed funds for a variety of reasons. Your decision to make a significant gift to endow a program certainly provides assurance that a personally important purpose will continue to exist, independent of changes that may occur in other Foundation activities due to priority shifts or budgetary crises. Endowments can serve as a permanent tribute to you or to someone or something important in your life. It can extend your values for future generations, signaling your support of an important cause.

Endowments can be established by more than one individual donor, although a substantial gift or two is usually needed to seed the fund and reach the level needed along with a dedicated leader or group of leaders to coordinate the effort. The Austin Group Psychotherapy Society, for example, is serving as the matching donor to a number of individual contributions being made to establish an endowed fund in memory of Jay Erwin-Grotsky; the Austin Group Psychotherapy Society, for example, is serving as the matching donor to a number of individual contributions being made to establish an endowed fund in memory of Jay Erwin-Grotsky.

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The Foundation is my charity of choice, and I am committed to funding its work. I have been surrounded by warmth and love from this group of extraordinary individuals who have embraced me in my own right. My mom must have sensed that it is so effective in the therapeutic setting."

My first meaningful contact with the Foundation occurred in 1995 following the death of my brother. The strength and power of the group only began to make real sense to me after my mother established the Mitchell Hochberg Memorial Public Education Fund in his honor. Here was my family standing up and taking, we believe so strongly in the power of the group to heal, that we establish an endowed fund to provide an annual public education program at the AGPA meeting, open to the public and the professionals who are part of AGPA. This was a big deal, and it was something I knew we would do. When Mom was named Woman of the Year, a scholarship fund was created for a single female parent to attend the Annual Meeting, to honor my grandmother, herself a single parent raising two children alone.

I began to tag along with Mom at various Annual Meetings and found myself in the company of caring, intelligent, and forward-thinking individuals whose company I enjoyed. And who welcomed me in their midst. As I became more involved, I became educated about the work of the organization and began to observe in my daily life how groups function and effect change, I began to think about whether there was a place for me in this community. My work as an attorney with the Capital Group Companies provided an entree for me with its generational matching charitable contributions for charities supported by its employees. When Mom and I began to discuss the future, I asked whether she would be interested in continuing her work on the Foundation Board once she was ready to step down. We talked about how much it would be for us to sit on the Board together for some years, and the rest is history.

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2020 Contributions to the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health

GIFTS ACKNOWLEDGED HERE ARE FROM JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020

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Visit the website and click on Donate Now.

To students from around the globe.
The scholarship will continue the legacy of that training.

For more than a life-time, both the scholarship and the Group Foundation have been providing occupational training and support for the development of group therapists.

The Group Foundation is a campaign that annually recognizes an esteemed individual whose ability and position, either personal, formal, or informal, has greatly benefited the mental health group.

We are accepting for the first time applications for an endowed scholarship this year!

The Humanitarian Award is presented to an esteemed individual whose ability and position, either personal, formal, or informal, has greatly benefited the mental health group.

The Total Social Responsibility Award recognizes an AGPA member or an affiliated society, or an affiliated organization of mental health professionals who through an exceptional service that ultimately benefits the public-at-large (deadline for applications October 1, 2021).

The Humanitarian Award is presented to an esteemed individual whose ability and position, either personal, formal, or informal, has greatly benefited the mental health group.

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

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• The Total Social Responsibility Award recognizes an AGPA member or an affiliated society, or an affiliated organization of mental health professionals who through an exceptional service that ultimately benefits the public-at-large (deadline for applications October 1, 2021).

• The Foundation supports Research that demonstrates the effectiveness of group psychotherapy and is soliciting proposals for original, critical research, reviews, or qualitative or quantitative (particularly meta-analyses), which focus on some selected area of group psychotherapy (deadline for applications November 1, 2021).

• The Group Foundation Tribute Program is a campaign of appreciation, recognizing mentors, colleagues, and others of importance in our lives embracing their part in fostering the personal and professional development of group psychotherapists. It is an opportunity to express your personal appreciation to someone who has made a gift to the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health. If you would like to take this opportunity to make a more significant gift, there are also opportunities to name a program at the upcoming AGPA Conference 2021; contact the Foundation office for information.

In Honor of Contributions

AGPA Staff (Charles Pohl)
Marsha Block (Eleanor Counselman)
Nina Brown (Toby Newman)
Susan Gantz (Diane Naretta)
Josh Gross (Michele Ribeiro)
David Hawkins (Russell Hopfenberg, Poonam Srivastava)
Priscilla Kauff (Xu Yong)
Robert Klein (Leslie Lotstein)
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Elizabeth Stewart (Margaret Postlewaite)
Karen Travis (Darlene Ford, Ronald Niemann)
Lorraine Wodiska (Michelle Collins-Greene, Joan Scher)
Irwin Yalom (Molyn Leszcz)

In Memoriam Contributions

Yvonne Agazarian (Katie Steelie)
Anna Elizabeth (Karen, Leslee, Nadia)
Tutu Bener (Lisa Mahon & Philip Flores)
Paul Brock (Justin Hecht & Erik Hjort-Reider)
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