

Group Assets

The Newsletter of the
Group Foundation
for Advancing Mental Health

Summer 2014

The Impact of Your Gifts

Connie Concannon, LCSW, CGP, DFAIPA, Editor, *Group Assets*

All of your generous contributions have allowed the work of the Foundation to flourish in many ways. As we have been sharing with you, the biggest area of growth has been in our Scholarship Program. At the AGPA Annual Meeting in Boston, with your help, we were able to award 142 scholarships. This has allowed us to pass on our rich training resources to the next generation of mental health professionals and to demonstrate both our professionalism and generosity as an organization. I hope that you will continue to support this amazing piece of our work by encouraging students and new professionals to apply for scholarships and the other awards and grants that the Foundation offers.

While this has been a huge accomplishment, it isn't the only place where the impact of your contributions has been felt. We have also been busy supporting our strategic planning goals of promoting group psychotherapy education, training, research, and community outreach. I would like to share with you the innovative and significant ways that we have been doing this and what we have accomplished.

Apply for a Scholarship Today

Attending the Annual Meeting 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 2015 Annual Meeting, February 23-28 in San Francisco. Among the available awards and scholarships are: the Anne Alonso Scholarship; the Donald T. Brown GLBT Memorial Scholarship; the Barry Bukatman M.D. Memorial AGPA Scholarship, the Josephine M. Cunningham Tervalon Scholarship; the Durkin-Glatzer Scholarship; the Howard and Barbara Goldstein Scholarship; the Ruth Hochberg Scholarship; the International Scholarship; the Susanne Jensen Scholarship; the Saul Scheidlinger 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.

To apply for one of these scholarships, visit AGPA's website at www.agpa.org/Foundation/scholarships, where there is detailed information and required application forms. Application deadline is November 1, 2014. Additional questions? E-mail: dfeirman@agpa.org.

If you are interested in contributing to the Group Foundation to help qualified candidates attend the 2015 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, contact the Foundation office at 212-477-2677 or visit the website and click on Donate Now.

New Scholarship This Year!

This is the inaugural year for the Robert E. White, M.D., and Sara Jane White, Ph.D., Scholarship. The fund will support a scholarship for the AGPA Annual Meeting for a psychiatric resident, with preference to those from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, where Dr. Robert White directed the group psychotherapy training program for more than 20 years. The Group Foundation is grateful to Drs. Robert and Sara Jane White for their generosity in establishing this scholarship fund.

This spring, AGPA and the CGP Board, with the support of the Foundation, published a new teaching manual—*Group Therapist's Guide to Process Addictions*, written by Shelley Korshak, MD, CGP, Marcia Nickow, PsyD, CADC, CGP, and Barney Straus, LCSW PCCG, CGP. The publication was designed to provide faculty and students with materials and bibliographical resources necessary for didactic and experiential courses in the specialized skills necessary to understand and treat the full range of process addictions, including rage, self-injury, gambling, money, codependency, relationship, romance, sex, technology, work and religion. This curriculum was specifically developed to provide those mental health professionals who are using or want to implement group as an effective treatment modality. Given that the group modality is such an integral part of all addiction treatment programs, this is a significant contribution and resource for all mental health professionals in both private and public settings. It has provided a bridge to access and support for all of our colleagues who have been doing this important work, and most of it having been done in groups. We are, indeed, fortunate to have such a rich collective of gifted clinicians and teachers in our organization that provide this valuable resource. This is a major accomplishment supporting our education and training goals.

The Foundation also awarded two research grants to study *Group Therapy for Supporting Teen Moms* and *Complicated Grief in Survivors of Suicide*. *Moms Growing Together* will address the significant issue of prevalent psychological distress among teen mothers by testing the acceptability and effectiveness of *Moms Growing Together*, a novel group therapy intervention designed to reduce distress and improve attachment to the child. The principal investi-

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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 2015 AGPA Annual Meeting (February 23-28 in San Francisco), recognizes an AGPA member or group of members whose exceptional service ultimately benefits the public-at-large, either nationally or internationally. This could 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 only is October 1, 2014.**
- The Foundation supports research that demonstrates the effectiveness of group psychotherapy.
- The Group Foundation Honor Your Mentor Program, a campaign of appreciation, recognizes mentors by emphasizing their importance in fostering the personal and professional development of group psychotherapists. It is an opportunity for you to express your personal

appreciation for your mentor. A highlight of this program is an essay contest in which entrants express their personal appreciation for the mentor of their choice.

- The Alonso 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 AGPA 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 are posted on AGPA's website at www.agpa.org. The application deadline for these Group Foundation programs, unless otherwise noted, is **November 1, 2014**. For additional information, contact Diane Feirman, CAE, Public Affairs Director, at 212-477-2677 or dfeirman@agpa.org.

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Our sincerest appreciation is expressed to these endowment donors in support of our program.

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The Impact of Your Gifts *continued from front page*

gator is Lee Smith, RN, PhD, of the School of Nursing at Saint Louis University, along with co-investigators Dorcas McLaughlin, RN, PhD, and Patricia Freed, RN, EdD.

Complicated Grief in Survivors of Suicide: An Evaluation of the Treatment Effectiveness of Complicated Grief Group Therapy will examine the efficacy of group therapy for suicide survivors with complicated grief who may be ineffectively served by traditional support groups in the hope of promoting care that will facilitate psychosocial adjustment to loss, restore functional grieving, and reduce suicidality in the population. The principal investigator is Katherine Supriano, PhD, LCSW, of the College of Nursing at the University of Utah.

Phyllis Cohen, PhD, PsyD, CGP, LFAGPA, Foundation Chair, said in our press release, "The Group Foundation, as part of its mission to help change lives through group psychotherapy, is pleased to be able to support these valuable research studies by Drs. Smith and Supriano. They have tremendous potential to demonstrate ways to improve day-to-day living for two populations in great need." I echo her sentiments and applaud the Foundation's intent to support group therapy research that is funded by our contributions. I was also gratified to see that both of the investigators are in schools of nursing, recognizing and providing a bridge to these mental health professionals who are so vital to the field.

Last, but not least, is the work being done by Suzanne Phillips, PsyD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA, our Community Outreach Co-Chair, in partnership with the Air National Guard 106th Rescue Wing. This program is offered to children of deployed Guard members at Gabreski Air Force Base in Westhampton Beach, New York, and children of military parents in any of the services in New York, to invite awareness

of the children's resiliency as individuals, as well as the value and potential working as a group, family, and large military family. Her ongoing commitment to this project, now in its sixth year, speaks to the value of supporting our men and women in service and their families to deal with the deep emotional issues that often have been minimized or ignored. For her work on this project in partnership with AGPA, we received the 2012 New York Society of Association Executives' Social Responsibility Award.

These are just a few examples of the work we are able to do with our donors' support. The impact of your contributions reaches well beyond the Annual Meeting and supports the values and beliefs that are reflected in our mission statement. Realizing these types of activities and goals used to be a dream, but because of your continued generosity they have become a reality. As I was sharing this with all of you, I felt a deep sense of pride in our organization collectively. I am thankful to each of you have made these dreams come true. Once again, we're the "little organization" that could.

Group Assets

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