

Group Assets

The Newsletter of the
Group Foundation
for Advancing Mental Health

Fall 2014

A Banner Year For The Group Foundation

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

This is truly a banner year for the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health! Our fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, was the most successful fund raising year in our history. The Foundation raised more than \$360,000 this year, and we hope to build on this for years to come.

In this *Group Assets* column, I have often taken the opportunity to let you know how much your generosity contributes to the work and the mission of our organization. We have been able to accomplish so much. I have also asked for your continued support to realize the dreams of our shared vision of organizational sustainability, our commitment to quality group work, our public outreach work to communities in need, and our training of the next generation of group therapists. Now I get to give all of you a big “shout out” for being a key part of the biggest fund raising year we have ever had. Our ability to meet our goal reflects the commitment to group work and its ability to help change lives and the maturity, forward-thinking, and generosity that is alive in the culture of our membership.

While the achievement of this goal is cause for a big celebration, I think the story of how we got here is also something to cheer about; financial success is a result of a commitment to our mission and garnering shared support for that mission. When we began our fund raising efforts, we went directly to the membership and started with our Capital Campaign and later developed the Leadership Fund and the Education and Scholarship Fund that many of you have committed to with annual pledges. These annual pledges provide the Group Foundation with predictable contributions that have stabilized our annual income and have allowed us to explore other fund raising options. This core of support and trust of the Group Foundation has been invaluable, and we thank those of you who form it.

We also began efforts to reach out beyond our membership. Some of you began sending letters out (or emails or Facebook posts) to family, friends, and colleagues out-

side of our community letting them know about the Group Foundation and the good work that we do. While this felt a bit awkward in the beginning, with training we are getting much better at this. The increased awareness of the Group Foundation through your efforts has brought in more contributions from individuals outside of the membership. This year, it has started to make a difference, and we look forward to it continuing to grow. Please keep telling our story.

Beyond our direct solicitation efforts, the Foundation has started to join with local Affiliate Societies to sponsor celebratory fund raising events to honor individuals who have made major contributions to the field at the national or the local level. I had the good fortune to be a part of this new effort when my local affiliate, Northern California Group Psychotherapy Society, dedicated its Annual Dinner to honor my Distinguished Fellowship Award. It was an evening that had great meaning to me. To be able to celebrate this achievement with my colleagues, friends, and family outside of the membership was wonderful.

My friends and neighbors along with my family were able to celebrate with me and hear why my commitment to the work of the Foundation is so important to me. My colleagues who didn't practice group psychotherapy talked about being so inspired by our work and our community that they wanted to be involved in some way. They were there to be part of the process rather than just hearing about my story about the award. It truly made it an up close and personal experience and brought together those who I care about the most in my life. It was a beautiful evening that I will never forget, and the fund raising aspect was icing on the cake.

I'm not the only one who has had the privilege of being part of this experience. Elliott Zeisel, PhD, LCSW, CGP, DFAGPA, Phyllis Cohen, PhD, PsyD, CGP, LFAGPA, and Kathy Ulman, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, just to name a few, have had events given in their honor. It is worth mentioning that on October 25, the Rochester Area Group Psychotherapy Society, in partnership with the Group Foundation, celebrated Phyllis

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Fulfilling the Promise Founders Circle

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

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Reminder: Group Foundation Scholarships, Awards and Grants Application Deadlines Are Approaching!

Scholarships: The Group Foundation recognizes excellence, promise and vision through scholarships to attend the AGPA Annual Meeting. Applications are now being accepted for scholarships to the 2015 San Francisco Meeting, February 23-28. Details on the application process along with the necessary materials to apply can be found on the website at www.agpa.org/foundation/scholarships. The early decision deadline for applications is November 1. Applications will be accepted after this date for review on a funds-available basis. Please consider a donation to the Foundation's Education and Scholarship Fund in order to help support the training of these new professionals and students.

Research Grants: The Group Foundation provides grants to support research that advances group psychotherapy. Grants are typically awarded at \$2,500-\$15,000, depending on the importance of the research to the field, the seniority of

the investigators, and the number of research applications received. The application and other relevant information may be found on the AGPA website at www.agpa.org/foundation/research-grants. The deadline for receipt of research grant application materials is November 1. Email submission is required; applications and inquiries should be sent to the Foundation at dfeirman@agpa.org.

Honor Your Mentor Program: This is a campaign of appreciation, recognizing mentors and emphasizing their importance in fostering the personal and professional development of group psychotherapists. A highlight of the program is an essay contest in which entrants honor the mentor of their choice. Entry requirements and other contest details can be found on the website at www.agpa.org/Foundation/awards/honor-your-mentor-program. Electronic submissions should be sent to dfeirman@agpa.org by November 1. Please also consider a donation to the Group Foundation in honor of your mentor(s).

Contributions to the Foundation can be made online at: member.agpa.org/scriptcontent/index.cfm?gpf=1

2014 Contributions to the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health

Gifts acknowledged here are from January 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014

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Banner Year

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Rifkin-Russell, MA, for her contributions to group psychotherapy and the Rochester community. It was a Wine, Chocolate and Live Music event and like the other events, celebrated Phyllis, as well as provided an opportunity to meet new friends who support group psychotherapy. The Rochester

Area GPS also deserves our appreciation because as a local Affiliate Society it has been incredibly supportive of the Group Foundation with time, money, and awareness raising. The Northeastern Society for Group Psychotherapy has also held several events, as well as a fundraising effort for the recent AGPA Annual Meeting in Boston, and the Houston GPS is holding its second annual wine tasting event and fundraiser on November 13. These Affiliates are role models for leadership at the local level for growing support for the Group Foundation. Including the local societies as part of fund raising efforts not only helps us financially, but also from all reports contributes to creating a positive way for local membership to gather, play, celebrate, and spread the good news of group work.

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Fern Cramer Azima (Elizabeth Knight, Lisa Mahon & Phil Flores)
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Jeffrey Hudson's & Robert Blodgett's Marriage (Shoshana Ben-Noam, Trish Cleary & Diana Kunkel, Diane Feirman, Mary Ivy, Nancy & Jerry Kelly, Ronnie & Ira Levine, Diane Montgomery-Logan & Lanny Watts, John & Hildy Pully & Joseph Shay)
Kathy Rider's Social Responsibility Award (Elizabeth Knight)
Phyllis Rifkin-Russell (Marsha Block & Leonard Walter, Judith Charnet, Phyllis Cohen, Sally Henry, Jeffrey Hudson & Robert Blodgett, Janet Rifkin and Marie Sergeant)
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Honor Your Mentor

Contributions

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