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GROUP FOUNDATION
FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH
INTERNATIONAL BOARD FOR
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION PROVIDES A “ALL THE MILITARY SERVICES – ADDING TO A GREATER FORCE” CAMP GALAXY DAY FOR CHILDREN OF AIR NATIONAL GUARD

NEW YORK, September 5, 2019 – Members of the American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) once again provided a Camp Galaxy Resiliency Day “All the Military Services – Adding to a Greater Force” on July 23, 2019 for the children of parents serving with the 106th Air National Guard Wing at Gabreski Air Force base in Westhampton Beach N.Y., as well as children with military parents in any of the services in the New York area. This multiple-award winning program, which has received the Social Responsibility Award through the New York Society of Association Executives and was recognized by the American Society of Association Executive’s Associations Advance America program, was adapted from the GOALS (Going On After Loss) support program used with families after 9/11, to a Going On During War one-day program for military children.

The goal of “All the Military Services – Adding to a Greater Force” AGPA Camp Galaxy Day was meant to underscore that while all of the five services Army, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard and Air Force (including the 106th) are powerful and uniquely effective, when they come together, like the members of a group, they create a force bigger than the sum of all the services.

The AGPA team, integral to the success of the program, was led by Dr. Suzanne Phillips, Co-Chair of Community Outreach for AGPA, who was joined by therapists, master teachers, and AGPA members. The team was also shadowed and supported by Guardsmen (male and female) of the 106th Rescue Squad.

As part of the day, the children were assigned to a group where they personalized and designed their group flag, made Marble Mazes and painted Happiness/Kindness Stones meant to build resilience as well as the kindness of passing them forward. They competed with remote controlled army trucks and learned about the Navy Engineers, “The Sea Bees” in the Building Bridge Activity. The Commander of the 106th Rescue Wing joined them in the midst of the day to welcome the campers and present AGPA with a plaque “In recognition of the outstanding continued support to the children of our Men and Women of the 106th Rescue Wing during Camp Galaxy.”

“The AGPA Camp Galaxy Day is an outreach mission meant to use our understanding of the power of group to give something back to the children of military families who have given so much to all of us by their service,” said Dr. Suzanne Phillips, Co-Chair of AGPA’s Community Outreach Task Force and leader of the team that coordinated the day’s activities. “The connection of AGPA volunteer counselors, children, junior counselors and active military was very moving and very effective.”

This program was supported in part by the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, thanks to a generous grant from the Heartfelt Wings Foundation. The goal is to continue the valuable community outreach work being carried out by AGPA members nationally and internationally to a variety of communities in need. To support this work and to find out more about AGPA programs and services, please visit our website at www.agpa.org or contact Diane Feirman at the association office at 877-668-AGPA (2472).

About AGPA

The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is the foremost professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy, operating through a tri-partite structure: AGPA, a professional and educational organization; the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, its philanthropic arm; and the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body. AGPA represents over 2,000 mental health professional members including psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers, as well as mental health, family, and pastoral counselors, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential. Its members are experienced mental health professionals who lead psychotherapy groups and various non-clinical groups. Many are organizational specialists who work with businesses, not-for-profit organizations, communities and other "natural" groups to help them improve their functioning. The association also has 21 local and regional societies located across the country.

AGPA is committed to supporting the dignity and psychological safety of every individual without discrimination regarding race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sex, age, or disability. Central to our mission is a belief in the power of groups to treat mental illness, heal the scars from traumatic events, and enhance the well-being of adults and children in their families, schools, corporate settings, and communities.

About the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health

The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is a philanthropic organization that is committed to the fact that "Groups Change Lives" and believes in the power of group interventions to improve people's quality of life. The Group Foundation supports group psychotherapy education, research, training, and information dissemination for the benefit of the public and professional communities. Among the Foundation's most vital roles is the recognition of excellence, promise, and vision by honoring those individuals and groups who have demonstrated these qualities with awards and scholarships.

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