

groupassets



EDITOR'S NOTE



Welcome to the fall edition of Group Assets. It's my pleasure to feature in the Faces of the Foundation, my long-time friend and colleague Jeanne Pasternak, LCSW, CGP, DFAGPA, who is always inspirational.

In writing the article on the Legacy Society, I want to thank Jerry Gans, MD, CGP, DLFAGPA, Shari Baron, MSN, CGP, FAGPA, and Kathy Reedy, MSW, LCSW, LMFT, CGP, for sharing their personal reasons for choosing this way of supporting the work of the Group Foundation.

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

THE FACES OF OUR FOUNDATION

Jeanne Pasternak, LCSW, CGP, DFAGPA

In my previous role as Chair of the International Board for the Certification of Group Psychotherapists (IBCGP) and my present role as a member of the AGPA Board, I often speak with members about their certification and membership in AGPA. So often, in fact, that many prospective members turn and run when they see me coming! Those I can corral often ask, "What does Certification do for me?" or "How does membership in AGPA benefit me?" And I'm reminded of the famous John F. Kennedy quote: "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."



Giving to the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is one way (of many) I can give back to AGPA, to enhance the field of group psychotherapy and to fill the need for better mental health services in my community. The work that our organization does, far beyond what it does for its members, is quite remarkable. I've had the good fortune to be part of AGPA since the early days (way before computers!) when we recognized our role in the greater community. Listening to and reading about the work of our Public Affairs Committee and Community Outreach Task Force impresses and inspires me greatly. The amazing work our members did in the aftermath of 9/11, the support of members working around the world at the time of a crisis, our presence in the training and setting standards for the field of group psychotherapy, our efforts to include all mental health practitioners—we continue to strive. This is why I have chosen to donate as I do to the Group Foundation.

My husband Matt and I were so moved by our AGPA involvement after 9/11, we committed to making the Group Foundation one of our main philanthropic efforts. We believe that our hard-earned dollars need to be given to an organization where it can make the greatest impact. The financial support of the Group Foundation was also instrumental in the development of the Certification of Group Psychotherapists. Developing the basic standards for education and supervision and the commitment to life-long learning across our multi-disciplinary field was a major undertaking. I'm proud to have been part of this from the beginning. Volunteer hours were great, but it took increased financial support to make this possible. The Group Foundation provided that needed financial support.

I see our contributions to the Group Foundation as a way to support improved mental health in our greater community. I wish I could be a part of the many projects that AGPA has going across the country and the world. From training programs in various communities to scholarships for young professionals to attend our AGPA Connect, I know that my support helps these programs happen, even if I cannot be there myself. Matt and I are hopeful that if we give what we can, our successors will also pay it forward so AGPA can continue to provide these vital services.

The Legacy Society? What is that?

In every edition of *Group Assets* in the right-hand side of the page, there is a space dedicated to the members of the Legacy Society. If you're not familiar with it, you may wonder "what is this Legacy Society about?" In this issue, I'm going to revisit what the Legacy Society is and why you may be interested in becoming a member of this group.

The Legacy Society is a distinguished growing group of people who have decided to donate to the Group Foundation by planned giving, such as bequests in their wills or a charitable gift annuity. Planned giving is a way many donors choose because it reflects what you want to leave behind as part of your personal and professional legacy. Giving in this way allows you to have a continued voice in advocating the power of the group in healing and creating healthy communities. The Legacy Society has become an integral part of the Foundation's long-term sustainability goals. It insures that the next generation of group therapists will have the opportunity to get the best group psychotherapy training and resources that are offered at AGPA, and it will provide them a platform to build on the efficacy of group psychotherapy.

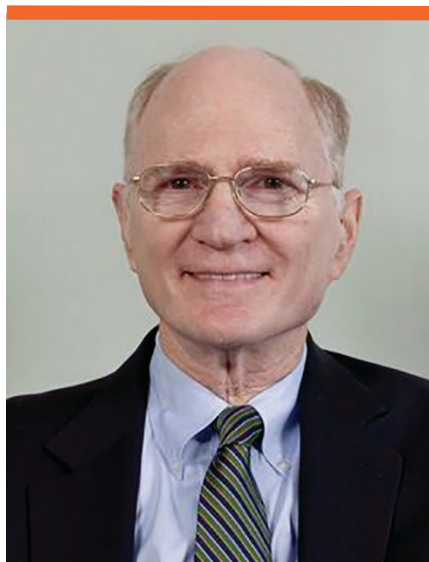
It's an important personal decision to make a planned giving donation and is inspired by both personal and professional goals and values. Three members of the Legacy Society have generously shared what influenced them to give in this way, which may help you to consider this option.

JERRY GANS, MD, CGP, DLFAGPA

"AGPA has been my professional home where I have had the opportunity to grow and develop both personally and professionally. Through participation in a variety of AGPA activities, I have honed my teaching and writing abilities, developed leadership skills, become comfortable in assuming positions of power and influence, increased my referral base by developing a national reputation, and, most importantly, made wonderful collegial relationships and treasured lifetime friendships.

"Legacy Giving has afforded me a way to give back to an organization that has meant so much to me. Since there are often competing demands on one's financial resources, I considered many factors in making the decision to give. It has always been important to me to support my three children financially when possible. When I made the bequest, I had two grandchildren; now I have five, increasing my sense of financial obligation to my family. I also had to consider the possibility that I could become disabled and would need money to make sure that my medical expenses would be covered and my wife taken care of. There are other institutions and charities that I also support. And the stock market is never a sure thing.

"Considering all these many factors, I realized that my strongest institutional allegiance was to AGPA. Participating in Legacy Giving provided me a tangible way to express my gratitude to AGPA at a level I'm comfortable with, while still being able to honor my primary connection to my family."



SHARI BARON, MSN, CGP, FAGPA

"AGPA has been my professional home for decades, so, several years ago when Allan and I decided to rework our wills, it just made sense that we decided to include a donation to AGPA in our plans. In reflecting on that decision, I've thought about the progress of my involvement here and the clear path that led us to our commitment to AGPA.

"I attended my first AGPA Annual Meeting (now known as AGPA Connect) when I was still in graduate school and have returned dozens of times to the one conference where I invariably learn a great deal about myself while advancing my clinical skills in invaluable ways. Initially, I came by myself; we had young children, and it just wasn't practical for Allan to accompany me. Over the years, each time I returned from attending the AGPA Institute and Conference, I talked about the dynamic experience I had had, the people I had connected with, and the valuable things I had learned. Allan and I both realized that there was something special about the experiences I had at AGPA, and I began to attend every year. I made friends here and started attending Affiliate Society Meetings. Once our children were all in college, Allan began attending with me, finding



LEGACY SOCIETY

We appreciate the provisions these planned gift donors have made for the Group Foundation.

Ramon Alonso
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