

groupassets



EDITOR'S NOTE



In this issue of Group Assets, we talk with Darryl Pure, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-F, Chair of the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health. The last time I saw Darryl was when I passed the gavel to him at AGPA Connect 2020 on stage at the Saturday luncheon. Indeed, the last time many of us were together was at AGPA Connect 2020 in New York City. Little did we know when Darryl started his position as Group Foundation Chair that we would embark on a worldwide COVID pandemic. In this interview, we learn the road traveled the last three years by Darryl, his thoughts on the Group Foundation, and the continued path forward for the Foundation during those troubling times. The Board of Directors appreciates his leadership and his willingness to serve in uncharted territory. As group therapists, we are familiar with uncertainty of what the group may bring each week and call upon our training to be present, listen, and intervene. This was a delightful interview that will provide you with insight into him as a person, as a clinician, and as a leader of the Group Foundation.

I look forward to seeing you in person in New York City for AGPA Connect 2023. Please stop by the Group Foundation booth to say hello and tell us about your thoughts regarding the Foundation and its work.

Karen Travis, LCSW, BCD, CGP, AGPA-F

An Interview with Darryl Pure, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-F Chair of the Group Foundation

What has it been like for you to become Chair at AGPA Connect 2020 in New York City just as COVID started, and to not have the experience since then of in-person meetings, including Board meetings, the luncheon, receptions and community meetings, at AGPA Connect?

COVID reconstructed everything. People from the conference fell ill, and it was a scary and sad time. There was a level of crisis we had not faced before. I was worried. The usual schedule changed, and it was certainly difficult. While virtual meetings were efficient and provided a place to make decisions and move the Group Foundation's work forward, the human element was somewhat lost. One of the main concerns was how would fundraising, which is vital to the Foundation, continue amid the crisis so that our work to support the field could continue.

I have been attending AGPA Connect for 41 years and to have that snatched away was difficult. I felt supported by you and Diane Feirman, CAE, Public Affairs Senior Director, so despite my concerns, I knew that we would get through this difficult time together. I spent my first term getting fully acclimated to my role. Asking for money hasn't gotten easier for me but I believe in our mission and our work is increasingly needed. Violence and the environmental crisis continue to be major issues affecting our world, and societal inequities need addressing. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) has been a major focus and a center point of my time. The Group Foundation Board has been revamped to increase our leadership's diversity. So, to return to the initial question, it was hard to start a position with such crisis in our world, but we have kept things going and had many successes.

What impact has being Chair had on you personally?

While serving as Foundation Chair I've been on a journey of maturation. At one time, I had thought I would like to be AGPA President, but I now think this work is much more important to me. The position is not time limited, and it is a different kind of work, which allows me the time to see initiatives through to fruition.

When you accepted the Chair position, did you have new goals? What did you want to continue to foster? Now that you are into your second term, what are your thoughts about the impact the Group Foundation has on our communities and AGPA given those goals?

In the beginning of my first term, with such uncertainty in the midst of the pandemic, I felt I was treading water. My immediate goal was to just make it through. Then the goal was how to continue to raise money to support our mission during COVID. One way that AGPA has maintained its strength financially is with the support of the Group Foundation, and that is very much a motivator. The Group Foundation Board of Directors stepped up; the staff stepped up; and we all worked together to achieve this. It was also huge time of change with Marsha Block, CAE, CFRE, AGPA's then Chief Executive Officer and Group Foundation Secretary-Treasurer, retiring and our move to the Kellen Company as a management company. So, another goal was to plan for how we would make those transitions as smoothly as possible.

There were many already-established Foundation goals that I wanted to continue to foster. Manny Hallowitz, MSW, AGPA-DF, was my AGPA mentor and first supervisor and a leader in the early stages of the Group Foundation (when it was the Group Psychotherapy Foundation), and his vision of support for AGPA inspired me.

Over the years, the Group Foundation has sought diversity, and it seems even more evident now. Initially, came the Durkin-Glatzer endowed scholarship, funded by and honoring two women who made tremendous differences in the AGPA and the Foundation. The LGBTQ community brought what seemed the next big steps of diversity to the AGPA and the Group Foundation. Now the Group Foundation, through its DEI Fund, is working to create training and leadership opportunities for BIPOC professionals and communities to insure a diverse mental health workforce and equity of access to services. The development of the DEI Fund Committee to provide guidance of the best use of the funding has been a very important component. The important Group Foundation goals continue to be to fund scholarships, help agencies and early career professionals, and provide disaster outreach.

In the most recent thank you letter to donors, you and your Vice-Chair Kathy Rider, LCSW, BCD, CGP, AGPA-F, state "We all share a common belief that group interventions create opportunities for healing and personal change. The power of group to change lives only increases when we have well trained group therapy providers, and communities that have greater awareness of and access to group services." How do you see the Group Foundation accomplishing this other than scholarships, and how can we get more mental health professionals interested in group work?

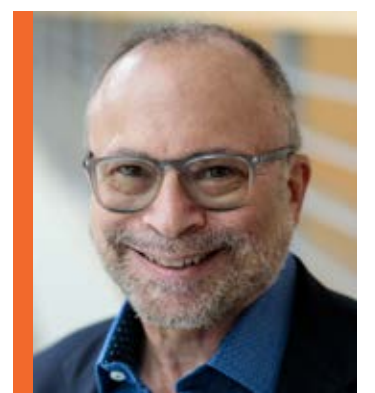
There are currently funds for local Affiliate Societies for DEI training, which we hope they will take advantage of to expand the number of qualified group therapy professionals who are culturally responsive in their work. Former Vice Chair Keith Rand, MA, LPC, CGP, AGPA-F, started outreach to the Affiliate Societies to identify their needs and structures, and current Vice-Chair Kathy Rider, LCSW, BCD, CGP, AGPA-F, is continuing to reach out directly to them. We hope to identify further areas of support at the local level. Secondly, in addition to scholarships, we want agencies to send their clinical staff to AGPA; they can take advantage of discounts.

Additionally, the Group Foundation continues to support AGPA's community outreach work. We are hopeful we will be able to expand the number of endowed scholarships we offer, as well as grow our legacy programs to insure consistent annual support of educational and training programs and public outreach to tout the benefit of groups. There is also work going on in AGPA regarding the opportunity for groups to be used to respond to the mental health crisis our nation is currently facing (see the Practice Matters column in this issue of the *Group Circle*).

Can you tell us more about the Group Foundation funding the development of an evidence-based group therapy resource website?

During the AGPA presidency of Eleanor Counselman, EdD, CGP, AGPA-DF, Division 49, Society of Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy of the American Psychological Association, in partnership with AGPA and the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, was instrumental in getting group named as a specialty. We have to maintain this specialty status within APA, and this requires funding. We, of course, know that there is clear evidence that group treatment works. AGPA President Gary Burlingame, PhD, CGP, AGPA-DF, and Bernhard Strauss, PhD, of Germany are leading this effort to develop the website. It is an expensive project and will be funded by APA Division 49, the Group Foundation, and the German Health Ministry. All clinicians will have access to the website for best practices in group work, and it will also be useful for demonstrating the effectiveness of group to other key stakeholders, such as third-party

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GIFTS ACKNOWLEDGED HERE ARE FROM JANUARY 1, 2022, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022

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AN INTERVIEW WITH DARRYL PURE, PHD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-F *Continued from front page*

payers and legislative bodies. You can read more about the effort in Dr. Burlingame’s Presidential Column in this issue of the *Group Circle*.

What is the main thing you want current and future donors to know?

I want donors to know about the extensive work the Group Foundation is undertaking to support the field of group therapy. New work will continue to be discussed and be made possible through the generous support of our donors. Currently, our focus is scholarships, community outreach, evidence supporting the benefits of group, and

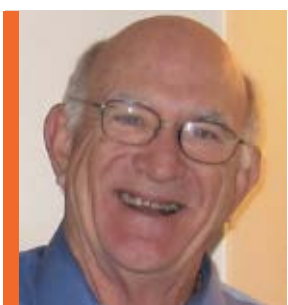
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives.

What else do you want our readers of Group Assets to know?

The work the Group Foundation is doing is highly rewarding; people are generous with their time and talents, and of course, with their financial resources. I want to take this opportunity to say again thank you for your gifts to the Group Foundation. No gift is too small, and I thank everyone for their contributions. I am standing on the shoulders of giants; you are one of those Karen as well as others before you who have served on the Foundation’s Board of Directors. I am fortunate to work with so many wonder-

ful people who step up to help. Serving on the Boards of Directors of all of our organizations are people who started in the Group Foundation Scholarship Program. Now they are leaders contributing to the work. It warms my heart. I am looking forward to continuing in my second term. And another thank you, as I cannot say it enough to our donors for supporting the mission of the Foundation in changing lives through therapeutic work by advancing the most effective and innovative approaches to group therapy education, training, research, and community outreach.

Save the Date: Group Foundation Event Honoring J. Scott Rutan, PhD, AGPA-DLF, AGPA Past President



SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023
7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Eastern Time

Join us for a special Group Foundation event honoring AGPA Past President J. Scott Rutan, PhD, AGPA-DLF. A highlight of the evening will involve Dr. Rutan being interviewed by his friend and colleague, Eleanor Counselman, EdD, CGP, AGPA-DLF, also an AGPA Past President.

All proceeds will benefit the Group Foundation. Keep an eye out for information on how to register!

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MENTAL HEALTH

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