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FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROUP FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH ANNOUNCES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LORRAINE AND DAN WODISKA FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

NEW YORK, October 14, 2025 – The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is announcing the establishment of a new scholarship, the Lorraine and Dan Wodiska Family Scholarship. This scholarship is dedicated to supporting AGPA attendees who identify as transgender, and is intended for students, early career professionals, and agency attendees. The scholarship will cover up to a 6-day registration for AGPA Connect as well as a travel stipend.

“Affirming belonging and support for transgender colleagues at every stage of their professional journey.”

According to Lorraine Wodiska, “Trans issues have been part of my family’s story for more than fifty years. My mother was deeply engaged with the trans community in the 1970’s at a time when the language was different and the world offered few resources and less acceptance. She offered presence, friendship, and advocacy at a time when it was most needed. Today, that story continues. One of my grandchildren identifies as transgender. Through both intimate family history and personal experience, I have witnessed the courage it takes to live authentically—and the pain that comes when society, or even beloved communities, do not fully see or protect that authenticity.” With this scholarship, The Wodiska Family seeks to respond to those voices. They wish to create a safe space where transgender colleagues feel seen and truly welcomed within AGPA. More than financial support, it is an embrace—a way of saying: “you belong here, your voice matters, and you are not alone.”

At the heart of the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health and AGPA is the desire to enhance the number and quality of effectively led therapeutic groups internationally in the public and private sectors. To accomplish this, we reach out to students, early career professionals, and other mental health professionals and offer them scholarships to assist them in attending the AGPA Connect Annual Training, where they receive exposure to safe and stimulating group experiences and an opportunity to learn from the most experienced and talented group therapists. The Lorraine and Dan Wodiska Family Scholarship will be an important addition to this program. The application is now available for AGPA Connect 2026 in New York City [here](#).

“We are honored that Lorraine and Dan Wodiska have chosen to establish this scholarship with such personal significance to them within the Group Foundation,” says Darryl L. Pure, Ph.D., ABPP, CGP, AGPA-F, Chair of the Group Foundation Board of Directors. “Learning to enhance group therapy skills while insuring inclusivity

and safety for all of our colleagues is integral to the mission of the Group Foundation. It is our privilege to work with them to make this support possible.”

For more information, contact the Group Foundation at (212) 297-2143 or via email at dfairman@agpa.org or visit www.agpa.org.

About the Group Foundation and AGPA

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.

The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is the foremost professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy, operating through a multi-organizational structure: AGPA, a professional and educational organization; the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, a philanthropic arm; the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body; and the Affiliate Societies Assembly representing 21 local and regional affiliate societies providing continuing education, consultation, and support for group therapists across the country. AGPA represents over 2,000 mental health professional members, including clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, and psychiatrists, as well as mental health, family, school, and pastoral counselors, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists. AGPA members are experienced licensed mental health professionals who lead psychotherapy groups and/or various non-clinical groups. Many members are organizational specialists who work within the corporate world, non-for-profit organizations, and other groups to help them improve their functioning and delivery of services.

AGPA is committed to supporting the dignity and psychological safety of every individual without discrimination regarding race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, 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.

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