

## **FAPT 2023 Art Cleveland Hero Award Nomination**

The **Art Cleveland Hero** Award has been established in recognition of Art Cleveland, LCSW, LMFT, RPT-S for his dedication to the field of Play therapy. This award honors all he gave APT/FAPT and keeps his legacy alive!

Everyday heroes live among us. Art Cleveland, LCSW, LMFT, RPT-S was one of the most inspiring to the world of Play Therapy, especially in Florida. When asked to describe his role for play therapy, especially working with children, many friends, colleagues and family first identify his passion. It was never work or a job for Art, it was a passion to make this world a better place

"Not the hero we deserved but the hero we needed" ~Batman

### **A little more about Art's work in Play Therapy written by his family**

Art was a Licensed and Board Certified Clinical Social Worker who specialized in Child and Adolescent Play Therapy, with a private practice of his own for twenty years after working in the behavioral health practice of Consultative Pediatrics for fifteen years. He received both his Bachelors and Masters of Social Work from Florida State University. Additionally, he was an advanced graduate of the FSU/LSU Harris Institute of Infant Mental Health. He believed and preached that "play is the work of children." While pregnant with their first of four daughters, Peggy Cleveland gave Art a book entitled *The Nurturing Father* by Kyle Pruitt, M.D. It was the first book Art had ever seen about the importance of fathers in the lives of children. As a clinician, Art visited many preschools and elementary schools. At each visit children asked whose daddy he was, tugged at Art's pant leg, pulled on his arm, showed Art their work, and asked him to play. Art became convinced that Dr. Pruitt was correct in his belief that children look for father figures everywhere.

Art asked himself these questions:

How can we as a society help fathers learn to nurture their children?

What could he do as a child therapist and the father of four?

How could he take Pruitt's research and make a difference in the lives of fathers and children?

Later Art developed with his good friend and colleague, Larry Barlow, a successful program to educate and inspire fathers, the DADS Project. For ten years, Art and Larry taught over 4000 fathers the tools needed to make an impact in the lives of their children, utilizing one of the initial grants in the Fatherhood Initiative from the Office of Governor Lawton Chiles.

Art also served the profession as the Treasurer of the Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapy for eight years and as the President of the Tallahassee Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. He contributed as a consultant to the Capital Area Head Start and as a Board Member of the First Presbyterian Preschool. He was an Association of Play Therapy board member who thoroughly enjoyed the conferences and board meetings, where he got to play, discuss the importance of play, and plan the training of future play therapists. He never thought it was bad to be the only male in the room (and he often was). "You've got to play, to make it today," was an often heard chorus in reference to Art's work. Art made a difference in the lives of many children and their families through his life work of "play."

**Criteria for the Art Cleveland Award is as follows:**

- 1- The individual is a member of FAPT/APT for at least 5 years.
- 2- Is not a current Board Member of FAPT or a member of the FAPT Award Committee
- 3- Has impacted lives through their work in play therapy.
- 4- Serves their community to impact lives of families without the need for notoriety.
- 5- Has a true heart and desire for helping children through insightful diagnosis, meaningful therapeutic relationships, helpful interventions, and mentoring peers.

The **Art Cleveland** Award will be presented at the FAPT Annual Conference on April 27 and 28<sup>th</sup>.

Nominee's Name and Credentials:

Place of Employment:

Business Address:

Cell Phone:

Business Phone:

Email:

Name of FAPT Member Making Nomination:

Address:

Home Phone:

Email:

Signature of Nominator:

Please Provide All of the following information on a Separate Sheet:

- 1- Describe how their work has benefited children.
- 2- Describe how this person's work has influenced others in the field of play therapy (i.e. supervision, trainings, university level).
- 3- Provide any supporting documents demonstrating their exceptional qualities such as newspaper articles, support letters, publications, etc.
- 4- Provide the names and contact information from at least two other co-nominators for this nominee
- 5- Submit resume or CV of nominee.

**Have Questions:** The Awards Committee can be reached at: [info@floridaplaytherapy.org](mailto:info@floridaplaytherapy.org)

**Deadline for Nomination is March 21, 2023**

**Please email all nomination materials as one file/attachment to: Awards Committee:  
Info@floridaplaytherapy.org**

## **Past Recipients of the Art Cleveland Hero Award**

2021 Anna Farrin, LCSW

2022 Dr Dalena Dillman-Taylor

## Scoring Criteria

If does not meet criteria 1-4, the nominee is not eligible for the award.

Criterion	Did not meet (0 points)	Met (5 points)	Exceeded (10 points)
1. Followed directions of submission			
2. A member of FAPT/APT for at least 5 years			
3. Is not a current FAPT Board Member or member of Award committee			
4. Benefit to Children explained			
5. Benefit to professional colleagues/others explained			
6. Humble Nature			

1. The nominator included all items and the nomination form requested for this award.

4. The nominee has been influential in the lives of children. The nominator has included evidence that demonstrates the impact the nominee had on the children within their community. Evidence can include awards, newspaper articles, recognitions, and/or other accolades. To meet expectations, the nominator must include at least one piece of evidence. To exceed expectations, more than one piece of evidence is included and/or recognition beyond the local community is present (i.e., state, national or international recognition). 5. The nominee’s work has impacted others in significant ways. Examples include but are not limited to training of future RPTs (supervision that has led to RPT attainment), conducted/presented trainings, or taught play therapy courses. This criterion should be quantified. To receive a “met expectations,” the nominee should provide evidence for at least one supervisee to RPT attainment and one workshops/trainings. To exceed expectations, the nominee should have at least three supervisees to RPT and three workshops within the designated time frame.

6. The nominee possess a humble, servant-oriented nature in their approach to influence or impact the lives of children and others in the field of play therapy and their community. To meet expectations, this characteristic must be evident in all letters of support. To exceed expectations, this characteristic must be evident in evidence of recognition (i.e., awards, newspaper articles, interviews, etc.).

**Comments:**