



# FROG FACTS

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**“Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful where Your streams of abundance flow – Blessed be your name . . .”**

This is how a favorite worship song begins. Certainly, in my life, the Lord Jesus has been faithful to give direction and to honor Himself in anyway that He has called me to serve. I am blessed with a faithful friend and husband in Ray Phares, a loyal group of friends and meaningful work. In 2009 it will be 25 years since the Lord Jesus raised up the **Isaiah Foundation, Inc.** As we waited on Him, he brought His people to do the work He wanted done. He has allowed me to serve in many different capacities but during the last 2 years He has brought help and encouragement so that I could pursue another task He has prepared me for ahead of time: child therapy.

From the beginning (1999) of **Child's Play Foundation, Inc** it was clear that this would be a different non-profit than the Isaiah Foundation, Inc. Still lead by the principles of the Bible and God's mercy, Child's Play Foundation reaches far into the darkness described in Isaiah 58; loosening the chains of injustice and freeing the oppressed.

**Child's Play Foundation** is exposed daily to the burdens shared by the Department of Children and Families, Foster Care, The Department of Justice and Medicaid. As teaching, training and professional counseling become the avenue for bringing light to these dark places, organizations in County and State government as well as licensing boards and insurance companies participate with Child's Play Foundation. Jesus reminds us to render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and in the Bible the book of Romans reminds us how important government is in the role of caring for people and promoting justice. As an organization separate from Child's Play Foundation, with a separate board of directors, the **Isaiah Foundation, Inc** is then free to operate as a ministry apart from state or federal funding.

Consequently, Child's Play was designed on the platform of The Isaiah Foundation to be the clinical and academic resource to assist families with mental health needs. **However, this relationship of the Isaiah Foundation, Inc and Child's Play Foundation, Inc are confusing for many especially those who visit Isaiah's Place where both are at work.** Also when folks visit our web address, which contains both organizations, and another bunch of pages for Isaiah's Place, they are also confused. We have been like a family of sorts but as we grow, as new people fill our boards of directors and as founding members leave this "family" it is important to clarify not only the organizational structure but also the intent.

The Isaiah Foundation was founded as a ministry to share the gospel with families who needed it. The Bible says, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." *Except of course those who are handicapped? Except for those who have autism?* Certainly not. Even children who cannot move and cannot speak need to hear the gospel. How will they hear unless someone tells them?

**It has never been a question in my mind or in my husband's as to the purpose of the Isaiah Foundation.** As we have served and as we depart from this service God will provide whatever He needs to do whatever He wants. As a human sinner it is very hard for me to give up a child, give up control or give up a dream of my own making. I am now in my 60<sup>th</sup> year and Ray is in his 71<sup>st</sup>, and we both continue to realize God's call on us to relinquish the future of this ministry to Him. Ray has resigned from the Board of Directors of the Isaiah Foundation where he has served for 25 years in many leadership roles. He is primarily responsible for the building we now inhabit. Ray's perseverance and poured out drink offering to that which he believed the Lord Jesus wanted him to do is now done. He is being called in another direction. I will continue on as the Clinical Director of Child's Play Foundation at the pleasure of their Board of Directors. **As long as Child's Play Foundation is housed at Isaiah's Place I will continue to direct the clinical programs and oversee the therapeutic environment there.** Both boards are in favor of clarifying the boundaries and duties of both agencies. Soon the websites will separate.

I am writing to you, dear friend, as a fellow laborer in the truth of Christ. The days promise to get darker for those in Kingdom work. – Lovingly,  
Penny

But "every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise. When the darkness closes in Lord, still I will say, 'blessed be the name of the Lord. You give and take away, my heart will choose to say, blessed be your Name.'

## Families with Children at Risk

Definition: families with young children 0 to 11 years old who meet two or more of the following criteria:

- Trauma before the age of three
- Single parent
- Poverty level or less
- Poor school performance due to behavior problems
- Reports of sexual abuse
- History of domestic violence

Intervention is based on the premise that individuals in families at risk do not trust freely.

The goal of intervention is to

- Reduce behaviors that lead to violence by
- Providing a safe and protected environment with
- Expert and professional counselors to
- Change thoughts and feelings that
- Lead to violent behaviors.

Kinds of interventions:

- Play therapy for individual children
- Family play therapy
- Group therapy for adult victims
- Speaking to community leaders about human development issues

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[Childsplayfoundation.org](http://Childsplayfoundation.org)

Why a Frog you say? Besides the fact that Isaiah's Place is in a wonderful natural environment and we have a lot of the "frog theme" here, the children are reminded that **F.R.O.G.** is also an acronym for **Fully Relying On God**. That is what our founding principles at Isaiah's Place continue to be .



## This side of the Story. . . .

Praise God for His great mercy! Each of you know that as a human being Penny Phares is timid. Yet God has chosen a work that is more than anything she could think or do. These are some of the things He has laid on our hearts:

1. Praise for an executive director for the Isaiah Foundation and administrative help in the person of Dorothy Duran.
2. Praise for permanent Clinical space at 6210 Harmony Lane, Yankeetown
3. Pray for Expanding training programs for parents, grandparents and play therapists.
4. Pray for wisdom in utilizing finances and internet resources.

The whole idea of committing to such responsibility in addition to the 22 clients I now serve is really scary. Becoming an itinerate grandmother is more to my liking, and yet I know , that I can do nothing except follow His lead. So please, pray about such things and if God drops the answer (or the funding) in your lap , please mail them in an envelope -

" Attention FROG." return address on back

In His Service, *Penny*



## Get Away and Play Conference

October 23 and 24 ,2008 was the date of the first play therapy conference in Yankeetown. Because of the pristine Gulf Preserve, friendly townsfolk and hospitality of the Community Church, Child's Play Foundation in conjunction with the Nature Coast Early Learning Coalition was able to host this learning opportunity. In 2008 Child's Play Foundation became a provider of Play Therapy training. On Friday Penny presented 'An Introduction to Play Therapy for child care workers and therapists. On Saturday Linda Hunter, PhD from Palm Beach came and gave a 6 hours experiential training on Sand tray play. 35 participants registered for the 2 day event.



Linda Hunter gets technical assistance from Colin Burke on Saturday. Colin is from the Nature Coast Early Learning Coalition



Friday participants utilize art materials to experience non directive play therapy

## Fund Raising Fun!

Last year Child's Play Foundation met the requirements in the State of Florida to solicit for funds as a not for profit agency. This is very helpful to increase programs that have no funding as well as providing scholarships to families who have no insurance and meet financial hardship. The Board of Directors of Child's Play Foundation have been instrumental in assisting with this. On February 16 and November 23, 2008 Isaiah's Place hosted a yard sale where all donations benefited children's therapy at Child's Play and Jesus Is! Ministries. Thank you to everyone for your help. Board Secretary June Proffit donated a collectors porcelain doll—Bonnie Blue Eyes - which was raffled off in November and December. It was 25 degrees and windy that day , " like being on a Florida Glacier", says Santa Penny. Beverly Dotson of Lecanto , FL won the drawing Dec 13. The same day Judy Koole's gorgeous jewelry was won by Trisha Gail Ballard!





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## Members of the Board

### Child's Play Foundation, Inc

- \* Donna Taudte
- \* Ronnie Badolato
- \* June Proffit
- \* Judy Koole
- \* Marty Keith



## Student Intern Program

Another first for Child's Play Foundation this past year is our student intern!

Because counseling students need practice during graduate school Isaiah's Place is privileged to host this kind of practicum in Play Therapy. This past fall term, Beket Lott, a graduate student in Mental Health Counseling (MHC) chose to do her practicum at Isaiah's Place for 13 weeks. Beket carried a case load of 6 children, assisted with the conference planning and implementation, began a research project and swept pounds of sand from the play room floor! On February 12, Donna Taudte, president of CPF and Penny Phares, ARNP/RPTS will travel to the University of Florida to attend a career fair for Social Service and Community programs. We are looking forward to meeting students and faculty and telling them about the wonderful world of Play Therapy!



Beket playfully dances with joy while setting up sandtray miniatures