

Cathy Robinson Pickett, Co-founder and HIV advocate, Friends-Together, Inc.

Nominating Party: David M. French, MD AMAZING....

This one word is insufficient in describing a tireless and extraordinary person who has been an advocate for HIV-infected children in Florida for over 10 years. Her organization provides camps and support for family and children infected with HIV from all over Florida. Cathy is truly one of the kindest and finest people I have met in my life. Her public speaking regarding advocacy for PLWAs and their families is something to experience. In my 25 years as a practicing physician who takes care of patients with HIV/AIDS, I have never met such a deserving and wonderful advocate and person. As a college freshman, Cathy was raped and left for dead, only to find out a few years later that one of her attackers infected her with HIV. The story brings a person to tears. She helped to shape legislation in Florida that would allow victims of such attacks to find out the status of their attacker. Cathy did not let this event destroy her life. She has two children for whom she is an extraordinary mother and role model. She continues to fight every day with new battles like breast cancer and the recent unexpected death of her husband from a horrific auto accident.

Words are not enough to describe this TRULY REMARKABLE INDIVIDUAL and TIRELESS ADVOCATE for those affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. In today's world, where there are far too few heroes, she is mine.