



University of
**Central
Florida**

Director of Alcohol and
Other Drug Programming

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It gives me great satisfaction to recommend Cathy Robinson-Pickett as a resource for schools and communities grappling with the problem of how to address the issues of HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI). I respect Cathy Robinson-Pickett more than any person I have had the privilege to know in the last decade. Cathy is the best example of a selfless person that I know. Cathy chose to transform her own personal tragedy, loss, and despair into hope, through advocating for change and giving back to her community.

It is without hesitation that I recommend Cathy as an effective speaker for college students; but more importantly, as an example of how communities can engage and embrace change through love, forgiveness and service. Cathy is a living example of the power of love and forgiveness. I can think of no more significant hero or role model for me or my children than Cathy Robinson-Pickett.

Over the last six years I have witnessed hundreds of students respond to her message of sexual responsibility, compassion for others, and recognition that HIV is a medical and not a moral concern. I have followed up with several of these students months after Cathy has spoken; many remember her messages and report that her story changed their thinking about HIV and sexually transmitted infections.

I have known Cathy both as a co-presenter on issues related to HIV, STI's and Substance Use and, most importantly, as a friend of many years. Students respond to Cathy because of who she is - not just what she says. Communicating information is a relatively easy skill to acquire. Communicating integrity, congruence, appreciation for diversity and love, is a life well-lived; definitely a skill not easily learned and very difficult to ignore. Cathy is so much more than a speaker ... she is a real person with a real message that students want to hear.

Please contact me if you have any questions about Cathy Robinson-Pickett as a speaker or as a friend.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Hall".

Thomas Hall, LCSW
Director, Education and Training Programs-Alcohol and other Drug Prevention
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