

## Stage Introduction

Cindy Coney is a nationally acclaimed speaker, trainer, consultant and philanthropic force to be reckoned with. Diagnosed with lupus in 1980, Cindy has since driven a racecar 124 miles per hour; completed the Chicago Marathon; championed countless nonprofit organizations; and shared her inspiring, empowering story from Belize to Baltimore.

In 26 years as Executive Director of the Mendez Foundation, Cindy pioneered federally recognized educational work in health and prevention that continues to impact the lives of hundreds of thousands of students nationwide. Cindy has also chaired The Lupus Foundation of America's National Board of Directors; is 1 of 11 Master Trainers selected by the CDC to lead national training seminars; and has held leadership and advisory positions with the United Way, the Gasparilla Distance Classic and Mary Lee's House for abused children.

A Florida native, Cindy has taught thousands of people to <u>move beyond coping with limitations to recapturing joy and fulfillment</u> in their lives. Cindy holds a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership; is an ardent Florida State football fan; and has raised two grown daughters with her husband of 35 years. Cindy joins us today to share her perspective on patient care, how it feels to receive a chronic diagnosis, and leading the best life possible under any circumstances.

Please join me in offering a warm welcome to Mrs. Cindy Coney!

[Cindy entrance]