

December 1, 2004



To Whom It May Concern:

Over the past few months, United Way staff have been working hard making presentations and encouraging companies and individuals to give during their companies' annual campaign. In order to encourage employees to give, we also have companies that request success stories from people who have been helped through United Way. One such company was Haggar Corporation.

After calling a few agencies, I was able to get in contact with Lighthouse for the Blind. Steve Vanderpole recommended Gail McWilliams as a possible speaker. Gail was gracious enough to spend a few hours of her time at the Haggar kickoff. She spoke eloquently and humorously. I was extremely impressed with her story and how she was able to convey it to others. Gail was able to hold the whole room's attention through her story. Not only was she motivational, but she was also warm hearted and persuasive. She was able to incorporate humor and personal anecdotes well. I was impressed with her ability to find a connection with her audience. For instance, she made the whole room laugh when she pretended to pull out a piece of paper from her pocket that had all her children's pant sizes on it. It encouraged me to realize that Gail had done her own research on the company before she came to the event. I found myself totally engaged in what Gail had to say. She made me laugh and she encouraged me to strive for more out of life. I was so encouraged by Gail, that I invited her back to speak at La Quinta's kickoff. I believe that her story really contributed to the success of both campaigns.

I would highly recommend Gail for any position that could utilize someone with an amazing gift for public speaking combined with passion and a desire to make a difference in the world. I am excited to see where these gifts lead Gail, and I will forever be grateful for her willingness to share those gifts with others.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chelsi Curry".

Chelsi Curry  
Assistant Director Resource Development  
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas