SPEAKER KIT · 2026

TEDx SPEAKER

Cendie Stanford

M.S., M.Ed.



The educator who makes hard conversations about childhood adversity easy to walk into.

- ACEs Educator & Keynote Speaker
- Standup Comedy Educator
- Author & Facilitator of Learning
- Founder, ACEs Matter, Corp.

Make room for the conversation.

BOOKING
ali1@acesmatter.org

ACEs Matter, Corp.

Founder & Board President. A 501(c)(3) helping adults affected by ACEs become allies for safer, healthier childhoods.

Beyond1Eighty

Founder. Helps nonprofits and community groups POP: Plan, Organize & Promote public health events.

BASED IN CENTRAL FLORIDA · @ACES.MATTER

She scored 15 out of 15 on the ACE quiz. Then she made it her curriculum.

TEDx	20+ yrs	10,000+	1M
Speaker, TEDxPort Saint Lucie, 2024	Teaching, school leadership and adult learning	Hours of professional development delivered	Adults ACEs Matter aims to reach by 2030

For more than three decades of her life's time, Cendie Stanford, M.S., M.Ed., has shared her gifts by helping people learn, guided by her belief that those who teach learn, too.

Her career in education began at age 16, when she served as a teacher assistant intern through a job-training program offered by her high school in 1995. After graduating from college, she became a special education teacher, assistant principal, and founding charter-school leader in Texas.

Today, she is the founder of ACEs Matter, a Florida nonprofit that brings research on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) to the communities that need it most.

Her work is personal. Cendie grew up with every adversity the ACE questionnaire measures, and lost her older brother to gun violence the day before her 16th birthday. Her relentless mother, willing to sacrifice her own life for her children, and a caring teacher stepped in to help keep Cendie moving forward.

At the heart of every session, Cendie reminds audiences: "Your backstory may explain a lot, but it does not decide what happens next."

She pairs research with lived experience, humor and audience participation, so educators, leaders and community teams leave with shared language and practical next steps, ***not just heavy feelings.***

> *"ACE score research can predict risk, but it does not dictate your future."*
>
> CENDIE STANFORD

Big topics. Human conversations.

Five signature sessions, each tailored to your audience, goals and time, from a 45-minute keynote to a multi-day workshop.

01 The REAL A.C.E.: Please Stand Up

An accessible, often funny introduction to ACEs and how childhood experiences echo into adult life.

For any audience new to ACEs
You will gain shared language and questions to keep learning

02 From ACEs to Assets: Make Your Past Pay It Forward

How lived experience can fuel purpose, storytelling and service.

For survivors, mentors, first-generation college students
You will gain and gather ideas to take one clear next step

03 Leading Others with ACEs

How awareness of childhood adversity can shape communication, workplace culture and supportive responses.

For leaders, educators, people-serving teams
You will gain practical, evidence-based strategies to create a safer workplace culture

04 10-Antidotes-to-ACEs: Community Is Medicine

Antidotes-To-ACEs are pathways to support: awareness, safety, nature, sleep, exercise, nutrition, mindfulness, relationships, mental health services and financial security.

For community, faith and family groups
You will gain a personal and community action plan based on the Antidotes-To-ACEs

05 How ACEs Shape Post-Separation Abuse

Childhood adversity, survivor experiences, safety and support. Featured at the 2026 Florida Domestic Violence Coalition statewide conference.

For DV advocates and community partners
You will gain a trauma-informed lens on prevention, intervention and education of survivors

Also available as a fireside chat, moderated panel or keynote.

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A laugh opens the door.

Cendie has successfully accessed standup comedy as a teaching tool. Relatable stories get a room laughing together, and that connection makes it possible to talk honestly about childhood adversity, mental health and what to do next.

LIVE EVENTS

Laughter-4-Social Change

Trauma-informed comedy nights that pair standup with ACEs education. 100% of proceeds fund programs for domestic-violence survivors and their children.

Latest: The Station, Clermont, FL, May 2026, with touring headliner JP Lambiase and comedic actor A. Ali Flores.

PROGRAM



Trauma-Informed Comedy Educators (TI-CEP)

Trains people with lived experience to educate through writing and performance, and to earn income doing it. Cohort I brought comedians, writers and a spoken-word artist to the stage.

Bring it to your stage

Comedy-infused keynote
Education first, laughs throughout.

Moderated conversation
Comics and experts, one stage.

Community comedy night
Awareness or fundraising event.

Every experience centers education and connection.
Personal disclosure is always optional.

What the room says.

> *"I have been in many ACEs trainings and sessions and this has to be the best I've ever had!"*
>
> DEBRA GONZALES, PARTICIPANT

> *"The most actionable trauma training I've ever attended. Our staff still uses the tools daily!"*
>
> SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, CA

> *"Cendie was excellent and knowledgeable! Articulate, honest, and relatable."*
>
> J. ZAMORA, PARTICIPANT

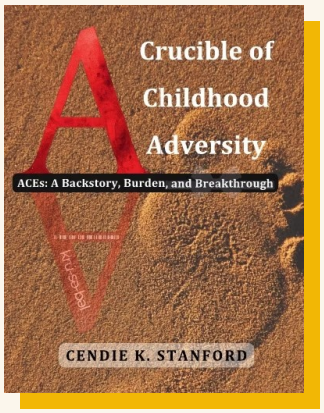
STAGES, PARTNERS & MEDIA

TEDxPort Saint Lucie	NAMI	California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
NYU Silver & McSilver Institute	WashU Brown School	Bethune-Cookman University
Boys & Girls Clubs	Central Florida Foundation	Public Allies Central FL
Center for Urban Families	NTTAC	PACEs Connection
Faith & Mental Health Summit	Peace and Justice Institute	Broadway Podcast Network
Florida Domestic Violence Coalition	Breaking the Silence radio	The Salisha Show

EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

M.Ed.	Educational Administration, Texas A&M University-Commerce
M.S.	Learning Technology & Information Systems, Texas A&M-Commerce
B.S.	General Studies, Special Education, West Texas A&M
Fellow	Entrepreneurial Business, Rice University Jones School

2020–Present	Founder & Board President, ACEs Matter, Corp.
2011–14	Founding School Leader, YES Prep Northbrook
2008–11	Assistant Principal, Spring Branch ISD
2001–07	Special Education Teacher, Texas public schools



AUTHOR

A Crucible of Childhood Adversity
The Word Was Good (2024), activity book

Let's start a conversation

In person, virtual or hybrid. Every session is shaped around your audience and the outcomes you want.

45 MIN – 3 HRS

Keynotes & trainings

Clear objectives, skill-building and practical application.

2 HRS – MULTI-DAY

Workshops

Shared activities, group discussion and collaborative exploration.

2 – 4 HRS

Fireside chats

Moderated storytelling, book walks and audience dialogue.

GREAT FIT FOR

- Schools & universities
- Nonprofits & community teams
- Healthcare & mental health
- Workplace leaders & Human Resources
- Faith, justice & recovery groups
- Government officials
- DV advocates

IN YOUR FIRST EMAIL, SHARE

1. Audience size
2. Date & location
3. Session length
4. Outcomes you want and available budget

Fees are quoted by scope and delivery, usually within 24–72 hours.



BOOKING COORDINATOR · ALI S.

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