

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

Speaker, TEDxPort
Saint Lucie, 2024

20+ yrs

Teaching, school
leadership and adult
learning

10,000+

Hours of professional
development delivered

1M

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, evidenced 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
NYU Silver & McSilver Institute
Boys & Girls Clubs
Center for Urban Families
Faith & Mental Health Summit
Florida Domestic
Violence-Coalition

NAMI
WashU Brown School
Central Florida Foundation
NTTAC
Peace and Justice Institute
Breaking the Silence radio
The Salisha Show

California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
Bethune-Cookman University
Public Allies Central FL
PACEs Connection
Broadway Podcast Network

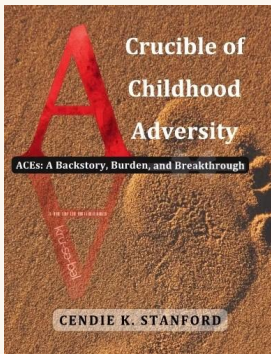
EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

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



AUTHOR

A Crucible of Childhood Adversity

The Word Was Good (2024), activity book

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



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.
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GREAT FIT FOR

Schools & Universities	Nonprofits & community teams	Healthcare & mental health
Workplace leaders & Human Resource	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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