

## **THE PURPOSE, GOALS, AND BELIEFS OF THE ADULT CHILDREN EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (ACE-DV) LEADERSHIP FORUM**

### **DEFINITION**

**(WHO WE ARE)**

We are adults who identify as having experienced domestic violence in childhood. While our stories are diverse and unique, our common experience is one defined by having lived in a home with a person who used various abusive tactics – including physical, sexual and/or psychological violence – to exert power and control over our primary caregiver and thereby maintain a household environment of tension and fear. The experience of living with a batterer is complex and multifaceted – many factors must be considered in order to understand its true scope and impact. Our experience shapes our work in this movement to end domestic violence.

### **AUDIENCE**

**(WHO WE WISH TO INFLUENCE)**

Our intention is to influence those who are working to end domestic violence.

### **VISION**

**(THE CHANGE WE WISH TO SEE)**

We envision a movement that includes the perspectives and priorities of youth and adult children exposed to domestic violence in the provision of services, the development of policies, the direction of research, and the general approach to effectively address and prevent domestic violence.

### **PURPOSE**

**(WHY THIS GROUP EXISTS)**

The Leadership Forum was established to amplify the voices and experiences of ACE-DV to enhance our work to end domestic violence.

### **GOALS**

**(THE WORK WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH)**

1. Promote the leadership of ACE-DV within the movement to end domestic violence and beyond.
2. Provide technical assistance, training, and guidance related to this issue.
3. Support the development of trauma-informed, culturally-responsive, asset-based research and information to influence policy and practice impacting children exposed.

### **BELIEFS**

**(WHAT WE BELIEVE)**

1. Children exposed to domestic violence can heal and thrive.
2. Each of us should be allowed and encouraged to name our own experience.
3. There is a difference between loving an abusive person and condoning their behavior.
4. Violence is learned and reinforced by societal norms, yet accountability and commitment to change can create a new path.
5. Our non-abusive parent was faced with limited and complex choices.
6. Our unique experiences bring added value to the movement.