

## **Advance Care Planning for African Americans Media Fact Sheet**

### **What is Advance Care Planning for African Americans (ACP for AA™)**

ACP for AA™ is a nationwide educational outreach initiative partnering with organizations to help bridge the racial disparity gap in healthcare delivery by:

- providing credible and culturally relevant healthcare-related information and resources,
- promoting conversational engagement about advance care planning options and preferences, and
- preparing the necessary steps to complete advance care documents and choose a healthcare advocate, if unable to speak for oneself.

ACP for AA's mission is to promote healthcare decision-making through advance care planning *conversations, education, and preparation* that help bridge disparity gaps for Black Americans.

### **Why is ACP for AA so important?**

- There's a long-standing gap in advance care planning for serious illness care and end-of-life care for people of color, particularly for Black Americans.
- Studies\* show a significantly lower percentage in completion of living wills (also called advance directives) by Black individuals of all ages, with approximately 19% of Black individuals doing so, as compared to 72% of White individuals.
- Black Americans are more likely to receive disparaging end-of-life care, and have considerably higher negative outcomes in medical care than other ethnic groups.

### **Who created this initiative?**

ACP for AA™ is an initiative of [Heart Tones™](#), a literary arts ministry founded in 1986 by Dr. Gloria Thomas Anderson. Heart Tones™ provides educational workshops, inspirational products, and helpful resources related to all seasons of life common to humanity, such as love, loss, and life itself. Considered a subject-matter expert in advance care planning, Dr. Anderson's work and research focuses on addressing healthcare disparities in communities of color. Learn more about Dr. Anderson [here](#).

### **Are there any key partners with ACP for AA?**

ACP for AA has partnered with the Montgomery Hospice and Prince George's Hospice Center for Learning to provide resources to citizens of Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland. Its team of doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, spiritual counselors, social workers, certified nursing assistants, bereavement counselors and volunteers work with its patients and their families to provide quality end-of-life care in homes, nursing homes, and extended care facilities in both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

### **Where can people go for more information?** [www.acpforaa.org](http://www.acpforaa.org)

### **If I want to partner or support ACP for AA™, what are the steps I should take?**

We are looking for additional hospice partners from across the country to partner with us. To learn more about partnership or sponsorship opportunities with Dr. Anderson's ACP for AA™, email [info@acpforaa.org](mailto:info@acpforaa.org).

### **Is someone available for interviews?**

Yes, Dr. Anderson is available for interviews. Her availability is best on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She is available for phone, video and may be available for in-person interviews (in the North Carolina area.) Please contact Tracee to schedule an interview.

### **Media Contact:**

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