



<http://www.denverradio.net/newforum/viewthread.php?tid=1094#pid3324>

Shameless plug for a really good cause

by Dallas Heltzel, DenverPost.com

Much of radio is the business of generating and encouraging expression: our own and those of recording artists, newsmakers and our listeners. We do it, ultimately, to make money.

But for troubled, abused and otherwise at-risk kids, expression can be the vehicle by which they carve their own paths out of hopelessness, anger, despair, crime and personal destruction and toward growth, happiness and productivity.

In some of this Cowtown's darkest corners, there's a new little spark at work. Art from Ashes -- <http://www.artfromashes.org> -- empowers these young people by facilitating creative therapies that encourage expression, connection and healing. Phoenix Rising, the poetry therapy program of Art from Ashes, helps young people discover the symbols and metaphors of their fears and dreams, tucked safely away and often forgotten. The poetry therapy is meant to give them a means for self-discovery and understanding, providing a positive way to cope with the negative aspects of life.

And, folks, it works. I first saw a presentation of this program at the Denver Press Club last winter, and since then I've had several chances to hear these kids create and pour out the most raw, throat-grabbing prose. The result is truly inspiring.

Any "Star Trek" fans out there? Do you remember the original-series episode "City on the Edge of Forever," in which Joan Collins played visionary social worker Edith Keeler? We have our own Edith Keeler here in Denver. Her name is Catherine O'Neill Thorn, and even a wordsmith like me finds it hard to adequately describe the magic this fearless, energetic, spiritual, dauntless, unconditionally-loving and inside-and-out beautiful woman works with these deeply-troubled teens.

Here's a chance to see your help get translated into very tangible good, right in your own backyard. To steal a line from the old Top-40 song "Green Tambourine," "When you drop a coin you'll hear it sing."

OK, end of shameless pitch. But please help if you can.