



ART From Ashes inc.

empowering youth through creative expression and personal transformation

1310 west 10th ave • denver co 80204 • 303.837.1550 • artfromashes.org • fb/artfromashes • twitter/artfromashes

TO NEED OR NOT TO NEED?



I haven't used the word "need" in a direct request in 15 years, since the inception of Art from Ashes. At that time, I was convinced that because our process and our results were so amazing and innovative (which they are), as we shared our work with people, we would soon have enough funds to spread our programs of connection and power through creative expression all over the world within a few years!! (In my defense, it wasn't so much naiveté as a sincere combination of **trust and faith...** which, now that I think of it, could be considered naiveté. 🙄)

Turns out, although **our unique creative process sets us apart**, like all the other nonprofits doing awesome work, we have indeed had to—and continue to—spend countless hours of agency time and tons of resources writing grants and grant reports, seeking donations, doing statistical analysis, managing a database, communicating in a way that inspires and engages people, holding events, recruiting and nurturing volunteers—not to mention paying the bills and of course paying the lovely and hardworking people who must pay *their* bills.

Over the past 15 months, Art from Ashes also had to face the challenge of my **cancer diagnosis**. Although I have worked the entire time I've been fighting cancer, staying as financially stable as in previous years has been demanding, and hope has sometimes seemed elusive. Yet hope and empowerment are exactly what AfA provides. They are as vital to existence as more tangible things like food and clothing—just ask anyone who is fighting for their life. Donating to AfA provides hope to a population that may otherwise not be served. So, yes. **We need you. The youth need you.**

What we do STILL works like magic. What we do is still changing the world for thousands of youth, as well as improving the landscape of our communities. And what we do is still unique and special—just like the young people we serve (**544 to date in 2018**, plus another 100+ who signed in but didn't fill out intake forms).

Our amazing results have won us numerous **awards**, and we hope you'll join us in our continued success, so we can accomplish even more. Art from Ashes needs \$20,000 in financial support by year's end to help us increase the number of **youth served in 2019 to 750** and to add transformational **dance and movement** to our program offerings!

There are at least five ways you can support AfA during this Season of Light and time of generosity and thanksgiving. We hope you will consider one or more:

1. **#GivingTuesday!** This Tuesday, November 27, Facebook has teamed up with Paypal to MATCH ALL DONATIONS through Facebook fundraisers. You can either start a

fundraiser ([instructions here](#)) and select Art from Ashes (look for our logo) or give to an existing one ([link to ours!](#)). Please do one or maybe even both!

2. **PayPal Gives Back!** If you want to donate directly through PayPal with your account, they'll be increasing all holiday giving by 1% through [PayPal's donate page](#) and the [PayPal app](#) from November 27 through December 31. That's sweet! No fees, either! Any size donation this holiday will be worth that little bit extra.
3. **Colorado Gives Day!** Every year, Community First Foundation and FirstBank present a statewide movement that celebrates and increases philanthropy in Colorado. There is a \$1 million incentive fund and we get a little piece of it depending on how much is donated during the 24 hours starting at 12:01am on December 4th. HOWEVER, you can plan ahead and give now, allocating the donation to [CO Gives Day!](#) We hope you will include us when you give this year.
4. **Celebration of Light!** Each year on Colorado Gives Day, we invite all of our past, present and future partners, volunteers, guest artists and poets, youth participants, donors and grantors to a [holiday party](#) that celebrates this season of light. Our events team has been hard at work planning this wonderful event. We would love to see you and show you what we're up to in our beautiful space at 10th and Navajo.
5. **Volunteer!** Most of our volunteers also work full-time jobs, and while we ask only 6 hours a month, that can be difficult for many. If you have six hours a month to give, we would love board members, interns and people skilled in communications, events planning, grant writing, FunDevelopment, database management, office work, and anything else essential to running a business. We also provide training for facilitation if you'd like to work directly with our young people. [Apply here!](#)

Well, there, I did it. To need or not to need? The answer is we need you now more than ever. And because giving is a blessing, we hope you will consider blessing yourself and the youth we serve before the end of the year.

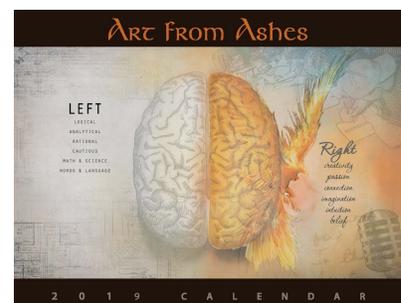
With trust and faith (still),



Catherine

PS. Pre-order our 2019 Art from Ashes youth art/poetry calendar! Just be sure to request the calendar when you make a \$50 donation.

Also, check out our [holiday letter](#) and read about my [cancer treatment update](#).



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