

To Whom It May Concern

I am a Group Leader for the Beauty From Ashes Program. I have been through the program twice plus the Advanced Leader Education Training. I have since lead numerous times plus presented my personal story in a large group.

Since a young age, I did not have a very good self image of myself. I always believed that I was not attractive enough for anyone to look at and I would scan the crowd looking for faces of horror or pity because I was always made fun of and told I was ugly. My ambitions were wasted because of these fears. The Beauty for Ashes Program had challenged me to face this...my biggest fear. I am now able to get in front of a group of people and tell my story with hopes that I can inspire others to dispel the untruths that they had been living with all of their lives.

I have begun to look at people in a different light. There are some that have built their protection walls so high from the hurts that they have endured that they are unapproachable or lashing out in anger. Whenever I personally encounter this type of person, my first reaction is to be hurt, and then I begin looking at them in a different light. I now realize that everybody has a story, mostly carried on from childhood trauma.

I am very grateful that I am a part of the Beauty for Ashes Program. I see firsthand how it is helping to change lives.