



PATHWAYS

A Quality Non-Traditional Program

May 25, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Karen Lynn Kazemi and I am currently a language arts teacher at an alternative middle school in the Denver metro area. I have had the honor and privilege to work with Youthonrecord as they implemented an amazing five session lesson plan series with my eighth graders.

As an educator for twenty years, my biggest challenge is typically motivating the either, reluctant writer or the non-intentional learner, the student who has the ability but chooses not to produce. Therefore, it has been my job, goal and mission to try to find unique opportunities for those students who struggle or refuse to write to have a plant seeded and nurtured in hope that one day the "light bulb" will go on.

After the very first visit with Youthonrecord in my classroom, I observed several of my reluctant and non-intentional learners raising their hands to share their writings in front of their peers, showing pride, and for the first time, actually seeing/understanding the purpose and power of the pencil!

Youthonrecord's genuine compassion, enthusiasm and ability to connect and reach out to my students was something which made my students thrive within just a few minutes of listening to Nathan, the facilitator.

As an educator in special education for seventeen years and teaching in an alternative middle school for three years, I truly believe that students can/will benefit from using their voice to express themselves, as well as to use writing as a place to be heard. We all know that individuals and especially teenagers want to be heard, have their feelings validated and just have a place to communicate without judgment.

I support Youthonrecord 100% and truly believe that each time they step into a classroom, they are helping individuals, and the school community and society become a better place. I challenge you to witness their positive influence!

Sincerely,

Karen Lynn Kazemi

Pathways Alternative Middle School

Littleton Public Schools