



Dear Friend,

If you are like me, you think about, and further care about, what the future will look like. Maybe you even share some of my concerns about the degradation of our environment or the social divides between our people. And maybe, like me, you also find great hope and opportunity at the hands of our youth.

I write to you because I know that you are on the same page as me and I know that you are interested in investing in the leaders of tomorrow. **I invite you to take part today by making a donation to Rite of Passage Journeys.**

We are not a typical organization; you may have already considered this. We do not directly address an environmental issue or a social cause, but our programs do affect our world tremendously. **Our programs cultivate the personalities of the people who will serve in the future and hence build the infrastructure needed for healthier communities; communities that will share ownership in the hope of each tomorrow.**

Many people of our time do not have a life experience that makes sense of the enormity of a meaningful rite of passage. Somewhere along the way we allowed the young to begin to initiate themselves and now we do not share a common cultural understanding of the importance of the fire of adolescence and the potency of the inspired adulthood that follows initiation.

Youth need your support, your inspiration and dedication. Even as Journeys' budget has held steady for the past two years our programs and reach have grown. I attribute this growth to you, our community.

But our work is not done. One of our dreams is that a rite of passage will be available and accessible to each and every human being on Earth. It is an audacious dream, and we have a long way to go before it becomes a reality. But I believe that each year we step a little closer with your help.

Last year was monumental in successes; and particularly inspiring because of the challenges that we have faced and overcome during the past few years as an organization. During this most recent summer season we served more youth and adults than we have ever served before, we asked families to remain on waitlists for our youth programs because our programs were full, and our staff delivered programs that were high quality and memorable. We also, as an administrative team have become more clear about the division of labor, created a unique model of non-hierarchical leadership, and have a clear and attainable business plan set in action.



"I come home excited to greet the world with the new me and I plan to do it proudly. I hope someone else will be as fortunate to embark on the wonderful journey I've just come home from."

Jesse Larson, Solo Crossing 2011.

So now, as you ponder how to distribute your hard-earned and much sought-after donation dollars, I respectfully ask that you consider one last thing.

Many otherwise worthy causes ask you to fund efforts that act as bandages to damages that our society has already incurred. **But our programs are different in that they are pro-active in nature; in that they preventatively spark the interests and give the tools necessary for our youth to more successfully face our collective future challenges.** It can be very costly to undo something that is already done. Dollars spent reactively never go as far as those spent proactively.

In the simplest of terms, a donation to Journeys gets you more bang for your buck!

Today, I ask you to give what you can to Journeys. **Whether your gift is \$5, \$50, \$500 or \$5000, all are gratefully received and will be put into action quickly.**

Who knows what each youth will do with the life experiences we offer? The rewards of our work are potentially immeasurable; each experience holds in it the possibility for immense return. **Youth represent our future; and each young person that journeys with us gives me hope.**

Sincerely,

Emily Pease
Fundraising and Marketing Director



"This past week re-rooted me in the Earth and myself, and I now feel able to reach higher than I had before."
Tristan Kline, The Journey Continues 2011.



"I have grown in more ways than I thought possible in three weeks. I can definitely become a new woman in this time, and I look forward to the rest of my new life."
Tovia Marinstein, Coming of Age for Girls 2011.



P.S. In order to prepare for next summer's life-changing programs for youth, we need to raise \$50,000 by the end of December! An easy, and convenient way to contribute is through monthly automatic withdrawals from your bank account.

P.P.S. Do you want to read about our summer? Visit our Blog at www.ropJourneys.blogspot.com to see photos and read stories from a fantastic summer in the wilderness. Become a follower of "Honoring Life Transitions" so that you receive updates as we post them.