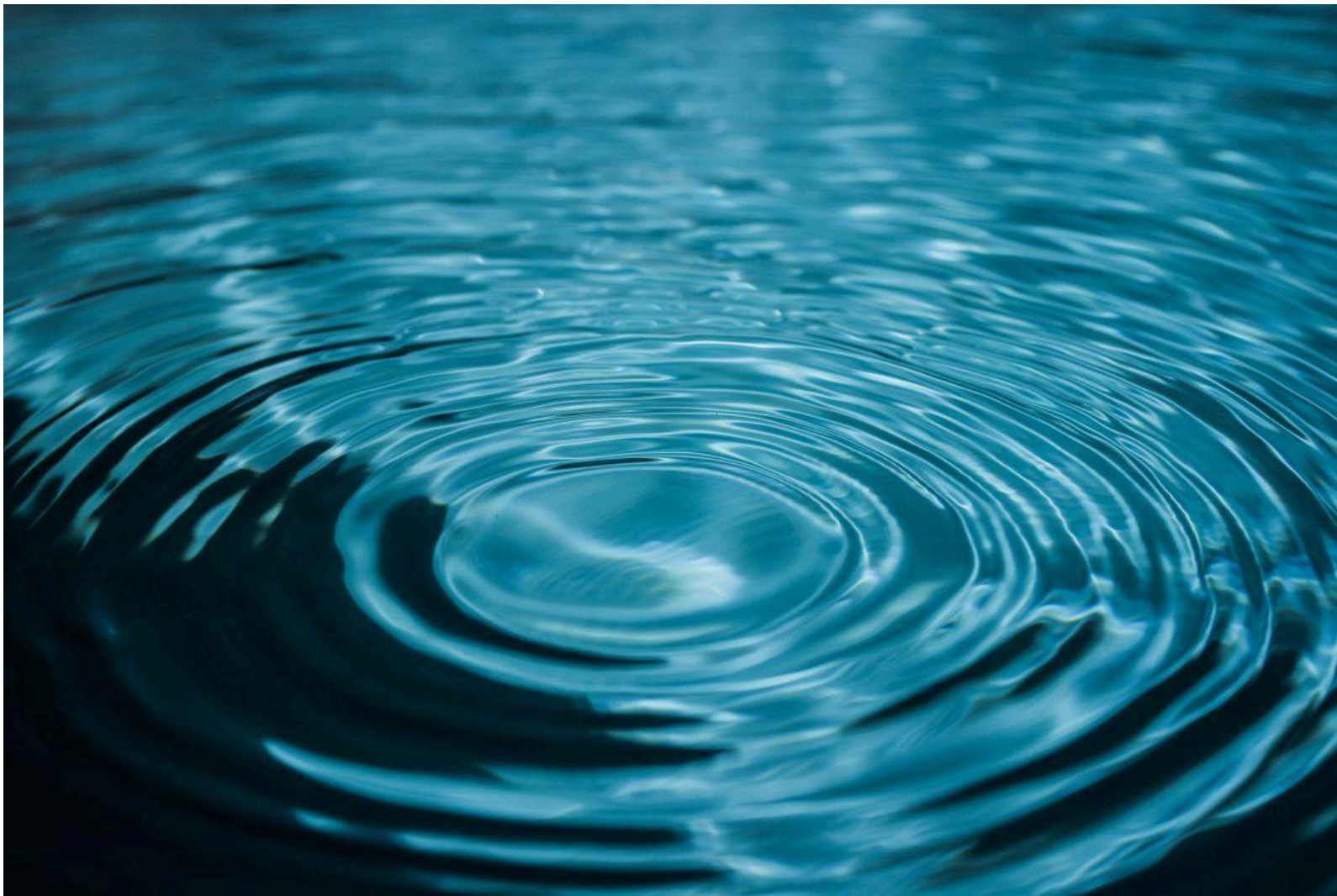


Raising Funds for Your Son's Initiatory Path

A village-supported grassroots rite of passage



Introduction

“I learned that a human being is not an island; we are always indebted to a thousand things — to the trees that made our houses, to the animals that fed us, to the people who taught us to speak, to the ancestors who held our names. Indebtedness is the river that keeps a community alive.” — Martín Prechtel

Community isn't something we walk into. We likely have to be a part of its making. And a reliable way of doing that is our practiced willingness to ask for help, and our willful capacity to be indebted to those who extend their hand.

It's what makes us all interdependent.

You are reading this because you see real worth in the Initiatory Path for your son, you're concerned about the financial side of things, and you're wondering how to make ends meet,

There's a great opportunity here for deepening the mutual indebtedness amongst the people to whom you reach out. Your reaching out for a helping hand is a gift to those willing to clasp yours.

So I've created this workbook to support you in financing the year ahead, whilst deepening your reliance on others, and theirs on you.

Take your time with this, knowing that your son's coming-of-age is not only a cost to you, but an occasion for a circle of adults beyond the nuclear family to satisfy their longing for togetherness, and service.



I. Where to look

First, you will have to imagine the people who are most likely to see the value of the Initiatory Path and contribute towards it.

In the following exercises, see what names jump out and write them down.

At this stage, don't edit or judge. Be open to surprises.

If you feel there's even a slight possibility a person might willingly contribute, write down the name.

Later there will be time to narrow the list down to the most promising names.

- A. Start below with listing family and close friends whom you feel comfortable asking for financial contributions, and who are familiar with your son.

Type your response here...



- B. Next, think of any person whom you have helped, supported or in other ways served in the past few years who might wish to reciprocate.

Type your response here...



- C. Now read through your Facebook friends list, and note down any person with whom you feel rapport, and who might respond favorably to your request. Don't be too discerning at this stage.

Type your response here...



D. Take time here to review your messages on Texts, Whatsapp, Signal, Voxer, etc. Write down any and all names that stand out to you.

Type your response here...



E. Review all the contacts on your phone and write down any relevant name that so far hasn't made it to your lists.

Type your response here...



F. Finally, review all the emails you've sent over the past 6 months. Write down names that are possible donors.

Type your response here...



2. Winnowing

It's time to narrow your list down. Go back to each list. Circle the most promising names. Cross out names that in hindsight seem obviously out of place. List the most promising persons below (aim for a minimum of 50)..

Type your response here...



3. What to Ask for

You will have to make a clear request to the people on your winnowed list of names. This includes requests for money, as well as for physical materials needed for the rite of passage to run, and related expenses..

I recommend you spend some time considering possible expenses. Here are some important items:

–You may wish to ask for financial support towards the program cost for the Initiator Path of Euro 3400. This includes a large number of one-on-one calls and guidance, and everything else listed on [the sales page](#).

–Your son may have to visit with the male midwives during his preparations. There will possibly be travel costs involved for him. The male midwives may also have travel costs and unexpected expenses for coming to the ceremony.

–The ordeal will take place in a secluded area where your son and the male midwives will camp for one or more days. In some countries land is freely available. In others, you may have to pay for access to land, in which case this cost can also be detailed.

–You will also need physical materials over the year. You might be able to borrow some, purchase them second hand, or seek them new. These include:

- Firewood
- Matches or fire steel
- Outdoor clothing for all kinds of weather (including boots/shoes)
- Knife
- Backpack
- Blankets
- Tarps



- Sleeping bags
- Sleeping mats
- Tent
- Food

–Your son's return is a celebration with your community in attendance. There are costs involved here too. These may include:

- Food and drinks
- Plates and cutlery
- Gifts (preferably hand made and local) for male midwives, ceremonial leader, and others
- Ceremonial garb, new clothes for your son
- Decorations

Below, you can list all the expenses you foresee, and their costs. This will be in addition to the fee for the Initiatory Path.

Type your response here...



4. Making your request

You are now almost ready to send out your first request for help. Below is a sample email for you to cut and paste at will, fill in the blanks, personalize, change nouns (mother, father, parent), pronouns (I, we) and formulate it so the letter speaks in your voice to the people on your lists.

Dear so-and-so

I am writing to you with a request of support for __ (son's name) _____ who is now _____ years old.

He is gradually changing before my eyes. And there are a lot of ways in which he's transforming that aren't visible. His inner life is changing too. He's on his way to becoming a young man.

As his father/mother, I want to help him through this life stage in the best way I can, and I've decided to embark on a year-long rite of passage journey involving friends and family. We will be guided by Miki Dedijer. You can read about his work, and the Initiatory Path, here: mikidedijer.com.

Our/my aim is that _____ comes of age with a deep love of life, and an understanding of his responsibilities in caring for all his relations in a good way. We are doing this for _____, but also because we believe so much of community and culture has been forgotten or lost, and we wish to remember and repair what we can. This is our way of contributing.

So, I am writing to ask if you would consider supporting us with some of the costs ahead, in whatever way and amount you might be able to.

- The Initiatory Path is an intense, one-on-one program led by Miki Dedijer. It costs Eur 3400 for a full year.



- _____will be out on the land for a part of his rite of passage, which requires equipment and outdoor clothing. We expect this to cost_____
- There will be a celebration on his return, with handmade gifts and a feast. We expect this to cost_____
- There will be some travel expenses to and from sites for _____ and for the men who will be guiding him. We expect this to amount to_____

We would love to answer any questions you might have, and we would be most grateful for any support and contributions you are able and willing to make towards his year-long process of maturation.

Any donations are welcome, and most easily paid to _____

With gratitude,



5. Starting with the First Circle

From your lists, circle your top 10 who you believe are the most promising, motivated and able to contribute the largest amounts. Send them a personalized letter based on the above example.

6. Follow up #1

A week after you contacted your most promising people, see who has responded. Make sure you contact them. They might be interested in hearing more about what you are planning and why. These conversations are a gift to everyone involved. Make sure you make time for these calls, so you can listen to their stories and questions, and share your most heartfelt longings for your son and community.

There may be those who haven't yet responded. Write them a short follow-up message.

7. Second Circle

Revisit your lists. Who are the next people you believe have the means and motivation to contribute? This will be a wider selection of folks. Send them a letter based on the above example. You may have to reword it for this circle. And if you have already received some contributions, update your letter and mention what costs and expenses remain to cover.

8. Follow up #2

Reconnect with the second circle one or two weeks after you sent out your email. Depending on how many people received



it, you may or may not be able to contact each person directly. That's ok. Just make sure you follow up on your initial request.

9. Widest Circle

Finally the time has come to contact people whom you may or may not know personally, certainly not as well as the previous two circles. Or it may be people you know, but who are not local or regional, yet might be motivated for other reasons to support your son, your family and the first and second circles over the coming year. Again, you may wish to change the wording of your email or message to adjust to the people you are now writing to.

10. Follow up #3

After a week or maximum two, see if this wider circle has made any contributions. Then send another message with any updates to money received, to the people on this list, inquiring if they received it, had time to read it, have any questions, or wish to contribute.

11. Final email

That's it. You have contacted all the people you can think of. You may have received a surprising number of contributions, from a few euros to more.

Write everyone on your three lists an email now, thanking them for their time, for their generosity. And remember to keep them in the loop over the coming year, as you see fit.

Maybe you can share stories as you and anyone involved in the Initiatory Path progresses through the year. Maybe you wish to invite them to the celebrations. Maybe your son might express his gratitude for their support.



Remember to reciprocate in a way that feels good, appreciative, and sustains the bonds formed through their generosity.

12. *Alternative sources*

It's good to ask for help from people with whom you have some relationship. And there is the possibility, should you wish, to seek support through a more generalized GoFundMe page, or similar.

If after the above steps, your funds are still lacking, this might be a good idea. You can think of many ways to motivate their contributions.

And remember, there are many people who are keen to contribute to the health of our communities, and to the young men who are learning to be a vital part of them.

