



"One of the gifts of Covid was that it shrunk the world and, in particular, shrunk the Ridhwan School in the sense that it felt like the distance between us was significantly reduced. The beauty of the communications that came out, the openness of heart, the generosity, and the opportunity to connect in all sorts of different ways, felt like a great gift through a very difficult period. It's a wonderful foundation for the school to build on in its way of growing and reaching out to the corners of the world."

—Gabe Phillips, Diamond Approach Australia 2

Dear Friend,

As 2023 nears its close, we ask you to consider investing in the future of the Ridhwan School, which is the nurturer and guardian of our precious path in the world. We are fortunate to have emerged from the pandemic years in good shape—both in terms of our fiscal health and in the strong sense of international community that Covid, in part, created as we sought support from each other during those very difficult times.

But we, like other nonprofit organizations and institutions around the globe, have also been thrust into a new reality: one of rising costs, hybrid retreats, a desire by many to reduce the carbon footprint of traveling to them, greatly expanded online learning, and more. This increased reliance on technology has helped thousands of students, especially those in remote locations, attend the Asilomar and Veldhoven retreats, Hameed's winter retreats and a host of other events such as podcasts, community conversations, book groups and so on.

"Something that inspires me about the school is that it feels like there is a very strong dedication to walking the talk, that the administration isn't separate from the teaching. It's infused. There is the guidance from the teaching within how the school is run."

—Alicia Savelloni, Diamond Approach Australia

Hameed has already done the thoughtful work of creating a succession plan, assuring us that the holding of this path will continue after he is gone. But we need to do our part to enhance the sustainability of the school and path by creating resources and modes of communication that make the Diamond Approach findable to those who will resonate with it.

That means, of course, keeping the path affordable, utilizing newer platforms to connect with and engage younger people, and completely revamping our website, portal and communications to ensure easy, intuitive access to the school's many resources. These things are just objective necessities for the thriving of any 21st-century post-pandemic institution. It will also help our community stay connected to each other amidst life's ongoing challenges.

"The heart connection I feel to the group, to the teaching, to the teachers, and that sense of community...that is the single thing that stands out for me in the path."

—Brandon Bizzell, Diamond Approach Weekend Group, Hamburg, Germany

Please consider making a donation today. Go to www.diamondapproach.org/donate or fill out the enclosed gift indication form and mail it to Friends of Ridhwan in the envelope provided. For details on other ways to give, visit www.diamondapproach.org/donation/ways-to-contribute or email contact@friendsofridhwan.org.

It is all about connection—to ourselves, to each other, to the work and the path, to who and what we are, and to those souls who may be longing for the understanding and possibility of transformation this teaching can offer. By contributing, you help provide resources needed to continue fostering those connections.

With deep appreciation,

The Friends of Ridhwan Board: Guus Brackel, Vaishali Chadha, Laurie Chestnut, Claus Friedrich Haalck, Rob Gussenhoven, Seth Schapiro, Alexander Verdegaal and Richard Wallstein

Friends of Ridhwan is a nonprofit initiated and led by students, designated by the Obsidian Synod to raise funds to support the School and the Ridhwan Foundation