

November 8, 2018

Dear Friend,

The end of a year often brings reflection, and as 2018 comes to a close, we at Friends of Ridhwan find ourselves appreciating the extraordinary richness of our School Community. There is such elegance and beauty to the unique way the teachings are articulated through each of us. The commitment to learning and practicing the Diamond Approach we see each day is inspiring, leaving us with enormous gratitude for how the teaching supports our unfoldment.

At the same time, the findability of the teaching is becoming increasingly important in the world today. Our efforts in this realm have led to many new groups forming in Europe, the United States, Canada and, now, in Asia. New online book and inquiry groups are meeting. Diamond Approach Online courses have grown in number and expanded through outreach. Our new Introduction to the Diamond Approach alone reached more than 300 new students in these various ways of engaging with the teaching have been profoundly transformative for people around the world. Khalisa, a student from Arkansas, recently shared with us:

"I'm really grateful that the Diamond Approach has been offered online because I thought I was going to have to wait a couple years before I could do this work and that I'd have to travel. This has made it possible for me to do preliminary work, now. In my inquiry group people are accessing deeper and deeper states and connecting with themselves and with others in a much more real, open and compassionate way. Every time I go back into my inquiry group or do another online course, there's just this deepening and dawning of this sense that I have access to everything I ever have been drawn towards, in terms of spirit, and life, and unity, and connection. I'm so excited to be on this path!"

We want more people like Khalisa to be able to find the Diamond Approach and to participate in the kind of transformative work with which we are already familiar.

We need your support to do this.

Many of you know that the School faces a financial deficit stemming from our increased findability efforts, which include a new web presence and interactive School Portal, and better resourcing of our communications, outreach, media and programming. At the same

time, the School has kept student fees and dues nearly flat for the past decade. While your fees provide Ridhwan with significant support, just like other nonprofits Ridhwan must also rely on charitable support. **Donations from students allow us to ensure the School's health and sustainability, enrich the Ridhwan community, and offer the teaching more broadly.**

Your support today will help strengthen the School's financial health and allow us to move forward with new strategic priorities to further the teaching and strengthen our community. Donations of any size make a real difference. This year, a student donor has generously offered up to \$50,000 to match contributions made through the Citadel Circle monthly giving program, so your first 12 months of school support will be doubled!

To make a one-time gift today or to join our Citadel Circle, please use the enclosed form to give your support, or you can donate online at www.diamondapproach.org/donate.

Thank you for your consideration of this appeal. By being more deeply who and what we are, we bring more understanding to our own lives and to the world.

With love, gratitude, and best wishes for the new year,

The Friends of Ridhwan Board:

Sam Barakat, Angelica Boehme, Guus Brackel, Laurie Chestnut, Seth Schapiro, Scott Vachon, and Richard Wallstein