

*"The divine does not send super beings into earth, bringing about peace or harmony...The divine expresses its divinity through human beings who learn to be fully human...You'd be amazed how much you affect as you express that unity and that beauty, how far it can go."*

—Hameed Ali

Dear Friend,

We are launching our 2020 annual fundraising appeal in the most unique and trying times.

There is a lot to hold at this moment in our lives, and we may be feeling overwhelmed by the catalog: a global pandemic that has killed over a million of people and is still running rampant, the societal consequences of systemic racism, the natural disasters associated with global warming, polarizing politics that disrespect and demean our humanity, and deadly conflicts. As students of the Diamond Approach may be finding that the teaching helps us deal with these challenges. While the path is not a panacea, it invites us to experience the support our love of the Truth provides in our personal lives.

Supporting the School means continuing the development of such learning for ourselves, other students, and people who have yet to find the teaching. The school has expressed essential qualities in many ways over the past year: the staff's monumental effort to set up and coordinate video-conferencing so we could continue to receive the teachings; teachers offering free daily school-wide meditations; the increase in community-building initiatives (such as the Student Body Committee, Community Conversations with Hameed, Spirituality in a Fractured World).

**Students have expressed gratitude, particularly for the new initiatives:**

- *"I've been doing every meditation since it started ... It's been incredibly helpful. It's like, all of a sudden, I have a family. I have always been someone who is self-reliant. But this has been so supportive."*  
— Jutta Ittner (DHR2)

- *[Through the Community Conversations with Hameed] "I learn so much more about the school and what's evolving in the arena of our teachings. Being in Australia, I feel more connected to this bigger field of students, Hameed, and Karen. And yes, I do generally get up at 2:30am to attend these and other offerings."*

—Anonymous (from evaluation survey of "Community Conversations")

These important new activities could not be possible without your continued generosity. The financial needs of your school remain, even amidst the urgent and important needs we see in the world. We each experience and are affected by all these events in different ways. However, our practices and the teachings of the Diamond Approach unite us and is available to support us to stay grounded amidst it all. By contributing to the Ridhwan Foundation, you support both the transmission of this vital teaching in the world and your own continued development. Two good outcomes from a single action!

By living our path, we become vessels for the divine, bringing life and light into the world. Whether we choose to do more—volunteer for a cause, demonstrate, run for office—is up to each soul. But by expressing generosity, love, kindness, strength, and other essential qualities, we create the potential to ease the suffering of others so they may see, in Hameed's words, "how beautiful a human being can be, how delicately sensitive, how exquisitely intelligent."

Please be as generous as you are able to be in these times. Remember, there are many ways to give. Go to <https://www.diamondapproach.org/donation/ways-to-contribute> to see how you can support us.

With love and all wishes of support,

The Friends of Ridhwan Board:

Sam Barakat, Angelika Boehme, Guus Brackel, Laurie Chestnut, Rob Gussenhoven, Seth Schapiro, Scott Vachon and Richard Wallstein