



FRIENDS OF RIDHWAN

"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 fellow Diamond Approach student,

At this stage, at what seems like ages into the pandemic, it's heartening to report that many students describe feeling resilient, increasingly aware of a school community and a deepening appreciation for the teachings. Equally encouraging is their strengthened commitment to their practice.

The school has found many ways during this challenging time to nurture that resilience and commitment. It has come from volunteer efforts of teachers and students alike, as well as allocation of funds by the School to: move retreats online without interruption to our process, offer community conversations with Hameed, free daily meditations, lecture series on other spiritual teachers and traditions, new online programs, and more. As Ridhwan is a nonprofit organization, the budget for these and other initiatives, as well as day-to-day operations, depends on donations from students. Friends of Ridhwan is a small, volunteer and student-run organization tasked with the school's fundraising efforts.

There is no more powerful a testimony to your support than the words of your fellow students. Here are just a few of the things we've been hearing:

"I'm really grateful that the journey continues—the learning, the development, but also the love, the trust, the sense that I'm not alone. There's this unity that exists. It feels like it will support the ongoing uncertainty about what's going to happen."

—Tuyê't Công-Tôn-Nu, California, USA

"[The school] created a container...for me to find my way through a difficult time without being identified with it. By staying in touch with [my practices] I was just better able to handle things that came about every day."

—Van Meyer, California, USA

"I felt a strong, solid, stable inner sense that was not affected by things that would normally affect me."

–Maree McFarlane, Australia

In 2020, the number of donors outside the US grew significantly, and the total number of donors increased by 75 percent. Can we count on your donation this year?

Your generosity is greatly appreciated, in whatever amount you can give.

To donate, please go to: <https://www.diamondapproach.org/donation/ways-to-contribute>. Remember, there are many ways to give (this year we are even accepting cryptocurrency). Monthly giving spreads payments out over 12 months, making it easier on your pocketbook. Unrestricted gifts—those not directed at a specific project—are also most helpful because they allow us the flexibility to respond where it is most needed.

Thank you for your support, whatever form it is taking this year!

With deep appreciation,

The Friends of Ridhwan board:

Angelica Boehme, Guus Brackel, Laurie Chestnut, Rob Gussenhoven, Seth Schapiro, Scott Vachon and Richard Wallstein