

2023-2024 MENTORS

Shaykh Hamdi Ben Aissa - Circle of Light Mentor and Teacher

Shaykh Hamdi Ben Aissa is dedicated to the mission of empowering youth and nurturing unity among individuals seeking to discover their true potential.

In a world that often feels fragmented and disconnected, he is committed to guiding the youth on their path to self-discovery and empowerment. His central focus is helping them reconnect with their heritage, sacred texts, and timeless concepts that define the essence of being human.

With a background that encompasses various cultures, languages, and educational experiences, Shaykh Hamdi is uniquely positioned to translate complex ideas into accessible concepts for a wide audience. Having experienced immigration firsthand, at different stages of his life, and having worked with diaspora children as well as Canadian born and raised youth and adults he understands the necessity of helping people navigate identity, faith, personal development/growth while engaging and contributing beautifully to whatever context a person may be in.

Shaykh Hamdi's journey of personal growth and awareness has been marked by a deep desire to make the world more beautiful, greater, and truer, especially for the youth he works with.

He is the child of a learned father and a graduate of Zaytuna University in Tunisia, which provided a strong foundation in spirituality. Growing up, he witnessed the natural relationships and exchanges within his community, leaving a lasting impact on his approach to life.



Throughout his life he dedicated himself to teaching and expanding his religious knowledge under the guidance of living scholars who embodied their teachings. Learning from these luminaries emphasized the profound connection between seeking knowledge and seeking life itself.

Through travels to various regions, including Syria, Egypt, and Yemen, Shaykh Hamdi had the privilege of meeting individuals who lived and transmitted spiritual wisdom. Subsequently he invested over a decade of his life to building and envisioning projects, initiatives that would facilitate personal development while promoting the universality and accessibility of teachings from diverse spiritual traditions and Islam.

Through these initiatives he has hosted many youth camps and classes such as camp connect, a gaspesie youth trip and so much more. He has also designed, taught, and published a course entirely dedicated to youth and their understanding of the Qur'an called 'Dare To Read.'

With unwavering commitment, Shaykh Hamdi Ben Aissa remains dedicated to empowering youth, fostering unity, and guiding individuals on their journey to self-realization in a harmonious world.

Amirhossein Shamsi - Circle of Light Facilitator

Amirhossein Shamsi serves as the dedicated facilitator for the Circle of Light program. With a strong background in nurturing spirituality among youth and fostering personal development, Amirhossein is unwavering in his commitment to empowering young individuals through the prism of Islamic spirituality and personal growth.

In his life journey he has travelled all over the world for his studies and career development. These experiences have instilled in him a profound understanding of the



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significance of identity, awareness, and leadership skills to navigate and thrive amidst the beautiful diversity that today's youth are intimately familiar with.

Confident in his sense of self, unwavering faith, and an optimistic perspective, Amirhossein has encountered and overcome diverse challenges since a young age. His personal journey has been enriched by active participation in youth leadership programs and meaningful engagement with diverse groups, including working with special needs children.

Presently, he dedicates his time as an educational assistant within the OCDSB (Ottawa-Carleton District School Board). He aspires to continue exploring creative avenues to empower youth, believing firmly in their potential to effect positive change in the world.

It is this unwavering belief that inspired Amirhossein to co-design and facilitate the Circle of Light program. His mission is to nurture compassionate, visionary leaders firmly rooted in the values of justice, compassion, and unity. Through the Circle of Light program, Amirhossein envisions a brighter future, one where the youth emerge as powerful leaders, ready to make a lasting impact on their communities and beyond.