

Qatar Foundation Continues Successful Blood Donation Drive

Doha, 24 March 2014 – The Health, Safety, Security and Environment Directorate (HSSE) at Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development organised its second successful blood donation drive this year titled ‘A Drop of Blood, Save Thousands of Lives’.

The ongoing campaign, which aims to encourage a culture of voluntary blood donation from people aged 18 to 65, was marked by high levels of participation from young people enrolled at universities in Education City and staff members working at Qatar Foundation.

It is the latest of many initiatives organised by Qatar Foundation to educate the public about essential health issues in order to create a healthier and more proactive environment. Educational posters and leaflets were distributed to educate participants about the advantages of giving blood.

Sheikha Amal Al-Thani, Acting HSSE Executive Director, stressed the value of donating blood and the importance of raising awareness of it among people of all ages within the Qatar Foundation community, as it not only helps save thousands of lives each year but also improves the health of donors.

Sheikha Al-Thani said, “This campaign is in keeping with the community services provided by Qatar Foundation to benefit both our students and employees. It demonstrates to our younger generation, in particular, the significance of actively contributing to community service and development, while enhancing their sense of responsibility towards other members of society.”

Hessa Al Marri, a student at Qatar Foundation’s Academic Bridge Program, was eager to take part in the campaign. She said: “This is the first time that I have donated blood and I was especially keen to do so because my blood type is quite rare. I felt heartened to help those in need and who share the same blood type, because I know that it will make a real difference.”

The campaign, held in collaboration with the Blood Donation Unit of Hamad Medical Corporation, ensures the highest standards of safety. Before any blood is collected from participants, the health history of every potential donor is carefully assessed by staff from HMC's Blood Donation Unit. Volunteers also receive a brief examination, whereby certified nurses measure temperature, pulse, blood pressure, and haemoglobin levels.

-ENDS-

Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organization that is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

QF's work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercializing solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>