

*DATE: January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014*

*(For immediate release)*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### *Academic Bridge Program Students Visit Sick children In Hamad Hospital*

**Students attending Qatar Foundation's Academic Bridge Program made a number of recent visits to sick children in Hamad Medical Hospital, in Doha. The participating students are all members of the ABP's Social Services and Volunteering Club. The visits were organized by the ABP's Assistant Director for Student Services - Ms. Moza Al Boainain, and Student Services Officer, Mr. Abdulla Kart.**

"The Academic Bridge Program (ABP) Social Services and Volunteering Club strives to develop a broader sense of community awareness among students. The aim is to help students to be more responsible about the community they live in," said Ms. Moza Al Boainain.

The ABP students brought coloring books, colored markers and toys to give to the sick children as gifts. They were also given a tour of the Children's Ward and they met some doctors and nurses who explained to the students about their professions.

Many of the participating students are interested in studying medicine after they graduate from the ABP and were invited to shadow the doctors at Hamad Medical Hospital as they went on their rounds in the Children's Ward.

"When we entered an ill girl's room, she was lying on a couch near her bed with her mother. The ABP student volunteers knew the little girl was bored and handed her a coloring book and sat down to color with her. The smile on her face lit up the whole room. Her smile was as bright as the sun. All the children that we visited in the hospital were just so full of joy. They had bright colors of happiness all over their faces," Ms. Moza Al Boainain commented.

The aim of the ABP's Social Services Volunteer Club is to get students involved in their local community. For example, last year student members ran another campaign to help provide winter clothes and some hygiene items to migrant laborers in Doha. The ABP students designed posters and arranged a charity sale to collect donations from the ABP family. The students then bought the items with the funds and distributed these them among the workers in different parts of Doha.

In May 2013, the ABP graduated 177 students and 58 students or 33% got accepted to a HBKU partner university in Education City, making it the largest percentage ever admitted from a graduating class. Some students received more than one admission as the universities offered 58 ABP graduates 68 admission letters. In addition, almost 40% of ABP graduates were offered places at universities in the United Kingdom, the United States and other universities abroad while many others went onto other universities here in Qatar.

Since 2001, the ABP has developed a model academic curriculum and also offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities such as the Social Services Volunteer Club, Debate, Model UN, School Newspaper, Sports Teams, and Student Government experience.

In 2011, the ABP was awarded five years accreditation by the Commission on English Language Accreditation (CEA) in the United States. This makes it easier to fast-track ABP graduates into universities in the United States without the need for them to complete a university foundation year.

\*\*\*

ENDS

\*\*\*

Note to editor:

For further information please contact the Academic Bridge Program on +974 44542120, Alia Khairat on +974 55224142, Derrick Moloney on +974 44542165, visit [www.abp.edu.qa](http://www.abp.edu.qa) or email [ABPAdmission@qf.org.qa](mailto:ABPAdmission@qf.org.qa).

\*\*\*\*\*