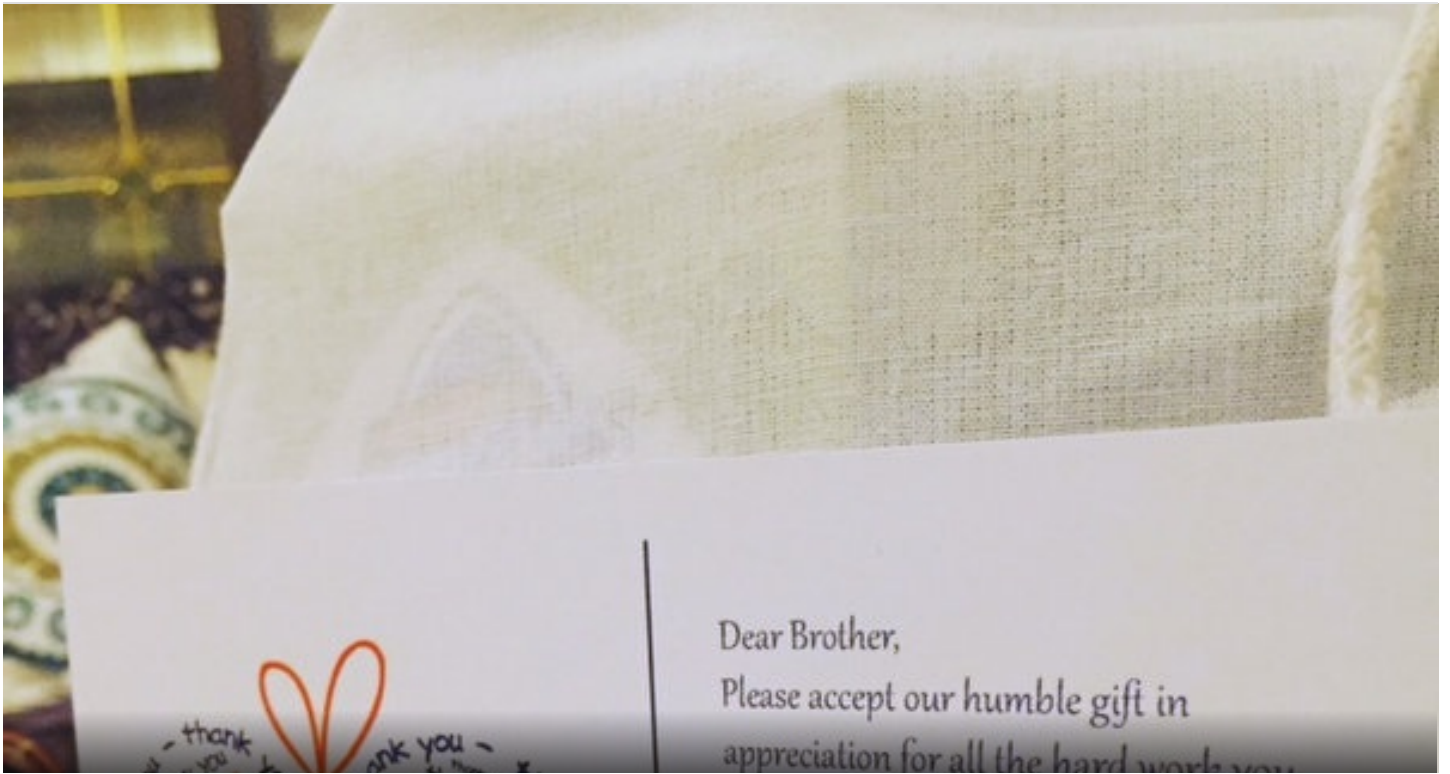


CHARITY

Public Encouraged to Show 'Gratitude for Gas Station Attendants' this Ramadan

Posted on June 22, 2015





On the occasion of Ramadan, a group of women have come together to launch a campaign called 'Gratitude For Gas Station Attendants' to show appreciation to the employees at petrol stations across Qatar.

Lasting for the month of Ramadan, the campaign involves encouraging the public to distribute gifts bags with basic health and hygiene necessities to employees at petrol stations. While completing the task, the public is encouraged to post pictures on Instagram and other social media channels with the hashtag #GratitudeForGasStationAttendants, to raise awareness of the campaign and its cause.

The campaign was launched by **British Shefa Ali**, an employee at Sidra Medical and Research Centre (Sidra), and a group of Qatari women including Fatima Al Emadi, Fatima Al Ghanim, Amal Al Kuwari, Wadha Al Marri, Noor Al Naemi, Aisha Al Thani and Mariam Al Khal. The group of volunteers have already begun distributing bags to employees at petrol stations. Now, they call on the public to join their cause, in order to reach as many gas station employees as possible. Primarily, the campaign only targeted fuel pump attendants, but since they've started distributing the gifts bags, every employee they've seen has received one.

According to Ali, employees at gas stations have one of the hardest jobs in Qatar. She said:

They do one of the hardest jobs in the country, standing in the heat all day for long periods of time. We would like to show them our gratitude for their hard work and dedication by gifting them with a small bag of essential items. The group plans to create and distribute gift bags for gas station employees during the month of Ramadan.'

What inspired the launch of this campaign is when a smile from a fuel pump attendant brightened up Ali's day. She explains:

It had been a long day, I had been to work and then straight to class, it was 7 pm by the time I finished, all I wanted to do was get home. I needed to fill gas, to my annoyance, the road leading towards the gas station was blocked off. I had to take a detour to go to another gas station which took an hour and a half. I was tired, hungry and extremely frustrated. When I finally got to the gas station, this man greeted me with the hugest, warmest, kindest smile ever; sweat was dripping from his forehead in the 40 degree heat topped off with 100% humidity. 'Salam Alaykoun Maam', his

smile and greeting instantly dissolved my frustration and humbled me to the core of my being. As soon as I got home, I got in touch with my friends, to discuss a way to honour this hard working man and his colleagues. His smile gave birth to 'Gratitude for Gas Station Attendants'. There is a saying by the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) that says a smile is a form of charity. So, I urge you to smile as much and as hard as you can. You never know who you might inspire and you never know whose life you might save.'

If you would like to participate in the 'Gratitude for Gas Station Attendants' campaign, fill a bag with the following items:

- T-shirt and a cap
- Packaged disposable razor
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Small hand towel
- Antibacterial soap and shampoo
- Hair comb
- Sun protection lotion
- Sunglasses

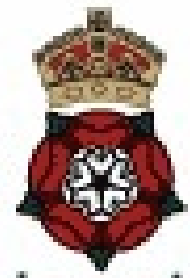
All items should be placed in reusable bags. Once the gift bags are ready, you can distribute them yourselves to the gas station employees. If you would like to have the greeting card to go along with the gift bag, email Ali on shefa_ali@live.com.

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