FUTURE OF WORK FOR THE UAE'S WORKFORCE

UAE LEADS THE WAY TO A GREEN MIDDLE EAST

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: UAE IN NUMBERS OVER 50 YEARS

HELLO Monday!

UAE CLOCKS IN NEW WORKWEEK

UAE	5.000	AED
KSA	5.000	SAR
Kuwait	0.500	DK
Bahrain	0.500	BD
Oman	0.500	OR

IN THIS ISSUE: *999* CELEBRATES ACTS OF KINDNESS AND COURAGE OF UAE'S EVERYDAY HEROES

Everyday HEROES

AS THE UAE CELEBRATES A TRIUMPHANT NEW YEAR, MANY RESIDENTS HAVE, THROUGH THEIR ACTS OF KINDNESS AND COURAGE, REINFORCED THE VALUES OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY. *999* CELEBRATES THESE ROLE MODELS

BY ANDREW WILSON

A New Year has begun, and it's a triumphant one for the UAE. In the year just gone by, despite the pandemic, the country reached the Mars orbit; launched the highly successful Expo 2020 Dubai; and organised spectacular 50th anniversary celebrations.

Now that we're in 2022, looking forward to the next 50, let's begin on a positive note. Even though it's usually headlines about bad news that catch our eye, there's a lot of good news out there — the emergence of everyday heroes reaffirms our belief in the community, and their good deeds and kindness deserve to stand out as amazing examples for us all. Especially in 2020-2021, with the human civilisation swamped by the COVID-19 outbreak, these heroes shone a light that many people desperately needed.

Kindness and consideration cost nothing, but they're priceless for those receiving them. We live in a world where many judge success and status by how much money someone has or how expensive their cars or clothes are, but these are just material things and can't be used to define someone's true character.

Many people struggle daily with life's problems as they try to progress in their careers, raise children, feed and clothe their families. Even the financially wealthy have problems and insecurities.

Therefore, a simple "thank you", a smile or opening a door for someone is not only courteous but shows that there's still kindness in the world.

Let's look at a few of the examples of how UAE nationals and residents have gone out of their way to help others. They're not ordinary, they're amazing people and positive examples for the rest of us to follow.

ABU DHABI

Abu Dhabi Police (ADP) understand that to effectively fight crime, they need support from the communities they work in. They also know that it's their duty to give back and care for those communities, in addition to keeping them safe.

A four-year-old boy named Mohammed Al-Harmoudi was one such recipient of ADP's giving and kindness from the "Happiness Patrol". The Protocol and Public Relations Department of ADP works with other police institutions and charities such as the Make a Wish Foundation to provide gifts and experiences for children who, due to their circumstances, need a special event to cheer them up and bring light into their lives.

Young Mohammed, who suffers from a

Mohammed Al-Harmoudi, 4-years-old, riding a police patrol car as a young police officer for the day

> **Young Mohammed, who suffers from a medical condition, received a visit from the Happiness Patrol of Abu Dhabi Police**

medical condition, received a visit from the Happiness Patrol of Abu Dhabi Police. In a video posted on social media in April 2021, ADP patrol cars arrived at Mohammed's home and transformed him into a young police officer for the day. The little boy is seen in the video being driven around in ADP patrol cars and being given an electric toy patrol car of his own, plus bags of gifts.

The surprise visit and the kindness of the ADP Happiness Patrol reinforced the child's strength to endure what he is going through. Gifts without kindness are just objects, whether they are of financial value or not. What makes a gift special is the thoughtfulness and consideration and the manner in which it is given. We should all wish the very best and congratulate the ADP Happiness Patrol for their excellent work with the community and also congratulate the bravery of their young recruit Mohammed Al-Harmoudi.

DUBAI

The Vijayan family, Indian expatriates and long-term residents of the UAE, suffered what can only be described as unimaginable pain with the death of their two-year-old son Vivaan.

At this time of extreme heartbreak, the Vijayan family made the brave decision to donate their late infant son's organs to save the lives of other children. The donated organs of Vivaan Vijayan were transplanted into and saved the lives of three children in the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Nothing can ever take away the pain of Vivaan's death for his family, but they should be immensely proud that their young child's organs were strong and pure enough to save three children. The Vijayan family can take comfort that in some way, Vivaan lives on — due to their immense kindness, their late son has helped others keep their dreams alive.

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, praised the Vijayan family by stating publicly, "Three children's lives were

saved in the UAE and Saudi Arabia because of this sacrifice. May your soul rest in peace, Vivaan, and my sincere wishes for a healthy life ahead for the three children. The UAE has always honoured people who demonstrate the values of compassion and inclusiveness. The generous humanitarian gesture from this family deserves all our appreciation and praise. They turned their pain of losing their only child into a new lease of life for three children, relieving other families of the ordeal they went through."

> **They turned their pain of losing their only child into a new lease of life for three children, relieving other families of the ordeal they went through**

AJMAN

Acts of kindness and consideration don't have to cost money. Many times, sharing what you have or what you don't need with those in need can not only make their lives more comfortable but also shows them that people are thinking of their well-being and they're not forgotten.

Two police officers, Hashem Muhammad Abdullah and Fath Al Rahman Ahmed Absher, were honoured by His Highness Sheikh Ammar bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, Crown Prince of Ajman, in August 2021 for a simple act that showed their humanity and consideration for others.

An Indian expat mother and her two children were waiting to get a PCR test in the sweltering heat. When the two Ajman Police officers saw the situation, where this lady and her children were exposed under the sun, they approached the family and asked if they'd like to wait in the shade and air-conditioning of their patrol car, while the father waited in line for the turn to be tested.

In a video that was on social media, the father of the family praised the two Ajman Police officers for their kindness. When the Ajman Crown Prince met with the officers, he praised their sense of responsibility to the community they serve and their moral principles that reflected the UAE's humanitarian values. "We are honoured to have policemen like you in Ajman. The police are ready to assist all members of the community, whether they are Emiratis or expats," he said.

Those who saw the video would also not forget. The two officers showed everyone their own high ethical values and set an example for everyone

HH Sheikh Ammar bin Humaid Al Nuaimi (centre) honours the Ajman police officers (right) who had invited an Indian family to wait in a police patrol

else to follow.

This story reminded me of one of my interpreters from when I was running courses for ADP. This lady, Taghreed Al Ali, almost always used to have cold water, some food, or some money to give to the gardeners or road cleaners working outside in the heat. Due to my operational experience in the military and security world, I understand the value of being able to drink cold water when hot and thirsty. I can think of several occasions when I'd have paid hundreds of dollars just for a bottle of cold water.

The simple and kind actions of Al Ali brought — and I am sure still bring — unexpected happiness to people on a daily basis. Many of the people she has helped are working hard to support their families in other countries. The financial cost of a cold bottle of water is small for most of us, but the kind act of giving it to someone can be worth more than money can buy.

> **When the two Ajman Police officers saw this lady and her children were exposed under the sun, they approached the family and asked if they'd like to wait in the shade and air-conditioning of their patrol car**

RAS AL KHAIMAH

In May 2021, a three-year-old Indian boy wandered away from his family and went missing while they were on a trip to Yanis Mountain in Ras Al Khaimah. The area of Yanis Mountain is very beautiful, but it's also a very dangerous area for anyone to get lost in, because of the heat, lack of water, and the steep drops where it's easy to be seriously injured if one falls. For this three-year-old child, the situation was definitely life-threatening.

Imagine how this family felt when they realised their toddler had vanished and that, too, in such a perilous area. When the family reported the matter to Ras Al Khaimah Police, an immediate search was started, every asset was applied, and within 12 hours the child was found alive.

Major General Ali Abdullah bin Alwan Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ras Al Khaimah Police, honoured two Emiratis, Major General Hazza Saeed Al Habsi and Adel Muhammad Al Jasmi, for their initiative and bravery in helping the search teams to find the missing child.

Al Jasmi, a member of Hazza Fazza Adventures, said, "The child fell asleep on the edge of a 90-degree steep and dangerous rocky

Major General Ali Abdullah bin Alwan Al Nuaimi meets two UAE nationals for their initiative in helping the police search teams to find a missing child

slope, at an altitude between 600 and 700 metres above sea level. The slope overlooks a large and open valley, known as Wadi Naqab and is close to the Al Hail and Al Fahalin areas in Ras Al Khaimah, about 10-20 kilometres from Ras Al Khaimah City Centre.

"I was alone in the mountain during those difficult moments of joint search, which took a long time. I used a drone to look for the missing child, but it stopped working after about an hour because it needed to be charged. Luckily, this was behind finding the little boy, because it was when I had to take the drone down that I found the child there at about 6:30 am. He was asleep, only 100-200 metres from the spot in which the drone landed."

The little boy had fallen asleep 1.5-2 kilometres from where his family was on the mountain, Al Jasmi said.

All of those involved in the search for this boy knew the dangers they were exposing themselves to, but they put the child's life before their own safety. This is an example for all of us that even in times where tragedy seems imminent, the action of brave men and women can make miracles happen.

UMM AL QUWAIN

For most of us who drive, changing a flat tyre is something that we don't like to do, but we can do when required. But for many, it can be a difficult and very physically challenging experience.

When First Sergeant Abdullah Salem Mujiren Al Shamsi from Umm Al Quwain Police spotted an elderly driver with a flat tyre, he didn't hesitate to go to the man's assistance and change the flat tyre for him and also ensure that everything was in order, so that the motorist could continue on his journey.

His Highness Sheikh Rashid bin Saud

> **When First Sergeant Abdullah Salem Mujiren Al Shamsi from Al Quwain Police spotted an elderly driver with a flat tyre, he didn't hesitate to go to the man's assistance and change the flat tyre for him**

HH Sheikh Rashid bin Saud bin Rashid Al Mualla, Crown Prince of Umm Al Quwain, hands out a certificate of appreciation to 1st Sgt Al Shamsi for helping an elderly driver with a flat tyre

bin Rashid Al Mualla, Crown Prince of Umm Al Quwain and Chairman of the Executive Council, honoured First Sergeant Al Shamsi for his dedication to duty and helping members of the community.

It's certain that Sergeant Al Shamsi's help given to the elderly driver, to carry out a task that was difficult for him, gave the motorist a sense of relief and comfort knowing that there are people like this police officer watching out for them and are there to help them in their times of difficulty.

FUJAIRAH

Would you risk your life to save someone else's? Many people might say that they'd do so, but secretly they hope they'd never have to prove their courage or lack of it.

When Emirati Mahmoud Rashid Al Kindi saw someone drowning in the sea off the Fujairah coast, he didn't think twice about his own safety and rushed into the waves to rescue the man. After pulling him to safety, Al Kindi gave him first aid until the paramedics from National Ambulance arrived.

Major General Mohammed Ahmed bin Ghanim Al Kaabi, Commander-in-Chief of Fujairah Police, honoured Al Kindi and praised his

Major General Mohammed Ahmed bin Ghanem Al Kaabi commends an Emirati for his courage to save a person from drowning in the sea

courage and presence of mind that saved a man's life. The commander-in-chief also stated that the citizen's

actions reflected his devotion to his homeland. Al Kindi thanked the police and stated that what he did was part of community duty.

Al Kindi's actions were selfless — he put saving someone else's life before his own. Such values are within us all, but it takes a strong community spirit and inspiring examples to ensure such values are always at the forefront of people's minds.

SHARJAH

Any motorist reading this would recall a time when their car broke down or some other vehicle emergency had to be dealt with on the road. Not only is there the immediate problem of how to fix the car, but also the issues of being late for work, missing appointments, and the financial burden of the repairs.

When Zain Al Abidin, a Sudanese national living in Dubai, had his car break down on Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Road, he was very lucky as Sergeant Ahmed Hassan Al Hammadi of Sharjah Police was on patrol in the area. Sergeant Al Hammadi saw Al Abidin trying to move his car and immediately went to help him. Not only did the police officer call for a tow truck for the stranded motorist, but he also paid for it.

The car owner was surprised when he tried to return the money and the policeman said, "There's no need. You're like my father or older brother."

Al Abidin offered his thanks to Al Hammadi in the best way he could think of: "I made sure to remember his name, which I saw on his badge, and thanked him through a live radio programme for others to know that goodness still exists in the heart of people."

Upon hearing of this good deed, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, commended him in a tweet for his kindness and generosity. "Offering help and good deeds are deeply rooted values in the UAE society. The gesture of Ahmed Hassan Al Hammadi from the Sharjah Police for Zain Al Abidin — who expressed his gratitude in kind words — is a recurring example in our blessed land. I thank them, and praise all those who faithfully serve people and represent values of their community," wrote HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed.

Sergeant Al Hammadi said, "I thank His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed for his message and encouragement. All these only

Sharjah Police

Major General Saif Al Zari Al Shamsi honours Sgt Ahmed Hassan Al Hammadi of the Traffic and Patrols Department for helping a motorist in distress

'I understood that he may just be doing his duty as a cop, but what shocked me was that he even paid for the towing service without my knowledge

reflect the core values upon which the UAE society was founded. What I have done was what I learnt from the UAE's leaders. It was part of the virtues and customs we were brought up on. We grew up committed to helping people."

A grateful Al Abidin said, "I was trying to move my car to the side of the road when all of a sudden, the officer came. He offered to help me get a towing service so that my vehicle can be taken to any garage I prefer." The tow truck quickly arrived, and Al Abidin added, "Sergeant Al Hammadi even helped load the car onto the vehicle. I understood that he may just be doing his duty as a cop, but what shocked me was that he even paid

for the towing service without my knowledge. Even the recovery vehicle's driver was shocked that the officer paid all fees. I was overwhelmed by his kindness. But, in truth, it's not strange for Emiratis to be so kind, as they are the sons of Zayed. Even the blind can see the culture of giving and generosity of this country and its people."

When the news of Sergeant Al Hammadi's act of kindness to the elderly driver, Al Abidin, reached the police force's top officers, the sergeant was honoured in a ceremony by Major General Saif Al Zari Al Shamsi, Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police.

Sergeant Al Hammadi said that his actions were based on the core values upon which the UAE society was founded and he thanked HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed for his guidance and example. He also stated that kindness and generosity were values instilled in him as he was growing up.

This is a shining example of what good parenting can achieve — Sergeant Al Hammadi's parents also deserve to be honoured for ensuring that their son was brought up properly to be an honourable, considerate, and generous man.

Conclusion

The past two years have been very difficult for many people, as not only have they had to deal with life's problems, but also the difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hopefully, you can see from the few examples in this article that good deeds are being done by good people on a daily basis.

Even if we're experiencing difficult times, it can help reset our lives by helping someone else. When truly helping others, we should never expect anything in return, apart from knowing personally that we may have brought some hope and happiness into the life of someone who is possibly going through difficulties that are far greater than our own.