



PartnershipsInAction

Be the Solution to End Global Poverty

MEDIA ALERT

CHICAGO PARTNERSHIP WALK - August 24, 2008

WHAT: An estimated 5,000 people are expected to participate in a walk at Millennium Park to demonstrate their support and build partnerships aimed at ending global poverty.

Partnership Walk is a public event to raise awareness and funds that help communities in Africa and Asia become self-reliant. Partnership Walk is an initiative of Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. (AKF USA) and is organized by its network of volunteers in communities across the United States. Partnership Walk is a national event, held since 1995 in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Houston and Los Angeles. The Walk brings together families, community organizations, students and leaders in government, business, media and the arts for a day of entertainment, learning activities and fundraising. Over the past 14 years, over 250,000 have participated in PartnershipsInAction events across the U.S., raising \$29 million.

One hundred percent of the funds raised at Partnership Walk go directly to projects supported by the Foundation. The cost of organizing the Walk is underwritten by AKF USA and in-kind contributors. No contributions are used for administrative costs.

The Foundation's work improves health, education and living standards in some of the poorest communities in Africa and Asia through grassroots self-help programs. Its programs focus on reducing illiteracy, hunger, disease and poverty in countries such as Afghanistan, India, Kenya, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Tanzania. Aga Khan Foundation presently is engaged in over 100 programs in 18 countries and is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network. www.akdn.org. As a private, nondenominational, nonprofit international development organization, AKF works for the common good of all citizens, regardless of their gender, origin or religion. Its underlying impulse is the ethic of compassion for the vulnerable of society.

Our 2008 theme, "*Planting Our Future – Partnerships in Action*" spotlights the extraordinary success, expansion and impact of Aga Khan Foundation's rural support programs, initiated in northern Pakistan in 1982 and expanded to nine other countries. The story of AKF's rural support programs brings to light the power of partnerships and reflects the Foundation's enduring commitment to community participation and grassroots democracy. It embraces the time-tested principle of helping people to help themselves.

The Foundation works in partnership with other institutions dedicated to international development such as the U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. State Department, the World Bank as well as private foundations and corporations.

VISUALS:

- Interviews with representatives of AKF USA and dignitaries.
- Village in Action: interactive educational exhibits that showcase the Foundation's work.
- 5,000 people walking in solidarity to end global poverty in a festive, culturally diverse atmosphere with live entertainment and speeches by notable dignitaries.

WHEN: Sunday, August 24, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Millennium Park, 201 East Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois

CONTACT: For more information or to schedule interviews, call Ms. Anar Ladhani at 773-317-3022 or Martha Sipple, AKF USA Communications Officer at (202) 293-2537
Visit www.partnershipwalk.org

1825 K Street N.W., Suite 901, Washington, D.C. 20006
Toll Free: 888-253-9255 • Phone: 202-293-2537 • Fax: 202-785-1752
E-mail: info@PartnershipsInAction.org • Website: www.PartnershipsInAction.org



An initiative of Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. and its volunteers in communities across America