



**AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WALK TO END GLOBAL POVERTY AT  
BIRMINGHAM PARTNERSHIP *SIN* ACTION WALK**

**BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, October 16, 2011.** Today, over 1,700 walked to end global poverty in the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Partnership Walk at Railroad Park in Birmingham, Alabama. The [Birmingham Partnership Walk](#) is an initiative of [Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A](#) (AKF USA) to raise awareness and funds that reduce poverty, hunger, illiteracy and poor health in Africa and Asia.

Birmingham's [2011 Partnership Walk](#) raised \$250,000. **100% of the funds raised at Partnership Walk go directly to projects sponsored by the Foundation;** not a cent is spent on administration.

The Walk featured lively entertainment and activities for all ages celebrating the diversity of world cultures. Spirited performances included the Cadence Show Choir, West African Dance Group, Matki Band, Zumba Performance Group, Silent Killers, and Karma Bhangra Cultural Dance Group. The Walk also included a Village in Action displaying how AKF USA projects help communities to become self sufficient and overcome the obstacles of poverty.

The Walk also attracted high-profile guests, civic leaders and local media personalities, including the Honorable William A. Bell, Sr., Mayor of Birmingham; Jack Williams, Alabama State Representative; and James "Jay" Roberson, Jr., Birmingham City Councilor. In the keynote speech, Mayor William A. Bell, Sr. acknowledged that "There are millions of children around the world that have the fear of where their next morsel of food or sip of clean fresh water will come from, or do not know the hopes and accomplishments that can flow from education. But because of the work that the Aga Khan Foundation is doing, you bring hope to those millions of children." Mayor Bell also expressed his gratitude to Aga Khan Foundation for choosing Railroad Park and the City of Birmingham for Partnership Walk because "the park was built with the idea of unity and hopes that we could bring people together in peaceful harmony to understand the blessings that we have in this community. Mayor Bell presented AKF USA volunteers organizing the Partnership Walk with a key to the city and issued an official proclamation from the City of Birmingham "in honor and recognition of AKF USA and encourage all our citizens of Birmingham to join in tribute for the ongoing efforts of this extraordinary foundation and its commitment to end global poverty and for the good of our city."

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*An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network*

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Masters of Ceremonies for the stage program were Honora Gathings, News Anchor for ABC 33/40 and Hanif Juma, President of Juma Consulting Company. Visitors to Partnership Walk enjoyed a day of family fun with face painting, balloon sculpting, Gamin Ride and a moon walk for the children as well as a silent auction, henna tattoos and complimentary lunch provided by area vendors and merchants that support the cause of ending global poverty.

To learn more about the event or make a donation, visit [www.partnershipsinaction.org/walk](http://www.partnershipsinaction.org/walk).

Partnership Walk events is being held in nine major U.S. cities this year, including Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Memphis, Orlando, San Francisco. Since 1995, [PartnershipsInAction activities](#) including the annual Partnerships Walk and Golf tournaments have attracted over 350,000 participants and raised \$42 million for poverty alleviation projects supported by AKF USA. Participants help communities in some of the poorest areas of Africa and Asia create self-help solutions to lift themselves out of poverty. Contributions make a tremendous impact in creating opportunities for girls in Afghanistan to go to school, for farmers in Mali to feed their families, and for mothers in India to lead healthy lives.

#### **About Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.**

AKF USA, established in 1981, is a private, non-denominational, not-for-profit international development organization committed to alleviating poverty, hunger, illiteracy and poor health. AKF USA works to address the root causes of poverty by supporting and sharing innovative solutions in the areas of health, education, rural development, civil society, and the environment. AKF USA is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code.

AKF USA is part of the Aga Khan Development Network ([www.akdn.org](http://www.akdn.org)), a network of private, non-denominational, development agencies around the world, established by His Highness the Aga Khan to empower communities and individuals, often in disadvantaged circumstances, improve living conditions and opportunities. The Network's agencies work for the common good of all citizens, regardless of their gender, origin or religion and its underlying impulse is the ethic of compassion for the vulnerable in society.

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