



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

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**WALK TO END GLOBAL POVERTY AT
CHICAGO PARTNERSHIPSIN ACTION WALK**

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, September 19, 2011. On September 18, 2011, over 2,400 walked to end global poverty in the 17th annual Partnership Walk at Millennium Park in downtown Chicago. The [Chicago 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.

Chicago's [2011 Walk](#) raised over \$400,000. **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 had lively entertainment and activities for all ages celebrating the diversity of world cultures. It also attracted many high-profile guests, civic leaders and local media personalities. Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White attended with the Jesse White Tumbling Team that wowed the crowd with their breath-taking performance. Award-winning blues singer / songwriter Sidi Touré from Mali performed during the morning program. Other cultural performances at the Chicago Walk included Indonesian, Indian Classical, Spanish Flamenco and hip hop dance. The entertainment program was emceed by Bill Moller, host of WGN Radio; Rehan Aslam, Executive Producer of FOX's "Good Day Chicago;" and Julian, DJ on B96 Radio, who also broadcasted live on site.

Participants also enjoyed interactive exhibits spotlighting the Foundation's practical solutions for alleviating poverty from Afghanistan to Zanzibar. Charles Sheerin, Director of Communications and Resource Development at AKF USA, thanked Walk participants for their dedication to help end global poverty, "Because of your collective actions today, you all continue a great tradition of coming together to make a better life for everyone, but especially the most marginalized among us."

To learn more about the event or make a donation, visit www.partnershipsinaction.org/walk.

Partnership Walk events will be held in nine major U.S. cities this year. 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

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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), 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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