



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

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**THOUSANDS ARE EXPECTED AT CHICAGO PARTNERSHIP WALK
TO HELP END GLOBAL POVERTY**

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, October 11, 2009 – Over, 4,000 are expected to participate in the Chicago Partnership Walk, an event held annually in major cities across the U.S. The Walk is an initiative of Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. (AKF USA) to raise awareness and funds to alleviate global poverty and promote partnership between America and the developing world. This year marks the 15th year for Partnership Walk and nationwide over 30,000 are expected to participate in the Walk in nine cities, including Atlanta, Birmingham, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Memphis, Orlando and San Francisco.

The Walk brings together families, friends, students and leaders in government, business, media and the arts for a day of learning activities, fundraising and culturally diverse performances. **100% of funds raised at Partnership Walk go directly to the projects supported by the Foundation.** The cost of organizing the Walk is completely underwritten by AKF USA and in-kind contributors. No contributions are used for administrative costs. Since 1995, Partnerships*InAction* events have attracted over 280,000 participants, raising \$32 million.

The Chicago Partnership Walk will be held on Sunday, October 11, at 12:00 noon at Montrose Harbor, Chicago, IL. Teams from corporations, universities, schools and community organizations have registered for the Chicago Partnership Walk to take a step to end global poverty. Participants will walk to demonstrate their support for ending global poverty.

Distinguished guests Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White and Illinois State Representative Elaine Nekritz will tour the interactive exhibits on site that showcase innovative solutions for reducing poverty in Africa and Asia. The program featuring lively entertainment celebrating the diversity of world cultures and educational exhibits will be hosted by media celebrities Dr. Sandy Goldberg, Health Reporter, NBC News 5; Bill Moller, TC Public Relations and former host of “Your Money with Bill Moller”; Rehan Aslam, Fox News Chicago producer; and Mai Martinez, anchor/reporter, CBS 2. For a detailed schedule and directions, visit the Partnership Walk website at www.PartnershipsInAction.org/walk.

The 2009 theme for the Walk, “*Education – The Universal Bridge*” highlights the impact of Aga Khan Foundation’s educational activities. Serving as a bridge to help individuals and communities build more productive, fulfilling and dignified lives, the Foundation’s educational activities span across a broad range of initiatives to help people in Asia and Africa reach their full potential, covering early childhood development, primary and secondary school improvement, and skills and management training for professionals, entrepreneurs and community members.

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An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network

Aga Khan Foundation's education programs bring to light the power of partnerships and reflect the Foundation's enduring commitment to education. For over a quarter century, Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. has worked in the developing world in the areas of health, education, rural development, civil society and the environment. These efforts equip people with life-long skills to overcome poverty and embrace the time-tested principle of helping people to help themselves.

One of the most inspiring features of Partnership Walk is the *Village in Action*, where participants can enjoy interactive displays and hands-on exhibits that spotlight how the Foundation is implementing creative solutions in poor regions from Afghanistan to Zanzibar with projects that promote quality education and health care, expand microcredit opportunities and improve incomes and agricultural productivity. Volunteers will guide participants through interactive exhibits to introduce the innovative ways that Aga Khan Foundation is alleviating hunger, disease and illiteracy.

AKF USA, established in 1981, is a private, non-denominational, non-profit international development organization committed to alleviating poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy. 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, to improve living conditions and opportunities. The overarching goal of the Network's programs is to help poor communities achieve a level of self-reliance whereby they are able to plan their own futures. The Foundation presently supports over 100 programs in 18 countries for the common good of all citizens regardless of their gender, origin or religion. The geographic focus of the Foundation's development programs is in East Africa and South and Central Asia.

For further information, please contact:

Ms. Martha Sipple, Communications & Public Affairs Officer, Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.
(202) 293-2537 or cell: (202) 203-0838

Afshan Vastani, Media Coordinator for the Chicago Partnership Walk Team
(281) 265-3085 or cell: (847) 858-6163

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