



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

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

**SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, September 10, 2009** – Over 700 are expected to participate in the San Francisco 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.

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.

The San Francisco Partnership Walk will be held on Sunday, September 27 at 10:00 a.m. at West Bluff Amphitheater in San Francisco, CA. Participants will walk to demonstrate their support for ending global poverty. Nationwide, over 30,000 are expected to participate in the Walk in nine cities. At an opening ceremony Jeff Morgan, Executive Director, Global Heritage Fund will address the gathering along with other distinguished guests. The program will feature lively entertainment celebrating the diversity of world cultures and educational exhibits for the entire family. Teams from corporations, universities, schools and community organizations have registered for the San Francisco Partnership Walk to take a step to end global poverty. Visit the Partnership Walk website at [www.PartnershipsInAction.org/walk](http://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.

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.

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*An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network*

All around the Walk site, participants can take part in the interactive exercises of the *Village in Action*. Young and old will 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](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 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.

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