



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

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THOUSANDS EXPECTED AT ATLANTA PARTNERSHIP RUN/WALK TO HELP END GLOBAL POVERTY

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, January 21, 2010 – Over 8,000 are expected to participate in the Atlanta Partnership Run/Walk to demonstrate their support for ending global poverty. [Partnership Walk](#), now in its 16th year, is 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. Nationwide, over 33,000 are expected to participate in the Walk in nine cities, including Birmingham, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Memphis, Orlando and San Francisco. Visit www.PartnershipsInAction.org/walk.

The Run/Walk will bring 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 Run/Walk is completely underwritten by AKF USA and in-kind contributors. No contributions are used for administrative costs. Since 1995, *PartnershipsInAction* events have attracted over 313,000 participants, raising \$36 million.

The **2010 Atlanta Partnership Run/Walk** will be held on Sunday, **October 24** at Centennial Olympic Park in downtown Atlanta. In addition to the traditional 1K Walk, Partnership Run/Walk will feature a 5K Run/Walk, a 1K Run for children ages 7-13 and a 100-yard dash for children 6 and under. Participants will walk or run to demonstrate their support for ending global poverty. A detailed schedule will be available soon on our [website](#).

In the past, Partnership Walk has featured celebrities and distinguished guests including Dikembe Mutombo, Chair and President of Dikembe Motumbo Foundation and NBA All-Star of the Houston Rockets; Mike Leven, Chief Executive Officer of Georgia Aquarium and Vice Chairman of Marcus Foundation; Saxby Chambliss, U.S. Senator for Georgia; David Shafer, Georgia State Senator; and Melvin Everson, Georgia State Representative. Throughout the years lively stage programs have included entertainment that celebrated the diversity of world cultures, which have been hosted by media celebrities Suchita Vadlamani and Mark Hayes, co-hosts of “Good Day Atlanta” and George Franco, reporter, FOX5 News

The 2010 theme for the Walk, [“Our Environment: One People, One Planet”](#) calls attention to the urgent need for environmental stewardship and strategies that build sustainability and resilience to the mounting challenges of climate change, deforestation, resource depletion and diminishing biodiversity. Poor and marginalized communities are on the front lines of climate change, at risk from melting glaciers in Tajikistan, salt water intrusion in Bangladesh, and prolonged drought in Kenya where food security and famine hang in the balance. [Aga Khan Development Network’s](#) solutions to [environmental problems](#) are intricately linked with mobilizing communities to champion innovative approaches to natural resource management and alternative energy in their surrounding habitats. Responsible stewardship of our planet extends to *all* people from Asia to Africa to America. 2010 *PartnershipsInAction* will engage Americans as global citizens in the widening grassroots movement to improve the quality of life of our planet and its people.

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An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network

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, 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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