



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

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CHICAGO EXECUTIVES GATHER TO FIGHT GLOBAL POVERTY

MAY 11, 2006, CHICAGO, IL. Over 150 prominent business, civic and academic leaders met today to garner support for Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. (AKF USA) and its annual fundraising event, Partnership Walk. The Foundation raises awareness and funds for innovative projects that reduce poverty in Asia and Africa.

Mr. Imtiaz Ladak, Vice Chair of AKF USA National Committee, who also sits on the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs, gave a synopsis of the Aga Khan Foundation's current activities and its impact on alleviating poverty. Among those endeavors is an expanded microfinance program funded by a \$5.5 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Luncheon sponsors, Deloitte and Touche LLP, presented the foundation with a \$10,000 check. Cary Stier, Deloitte and Touche Partner and Midwest Practice Leader, stated, "Today's luncheon served its purpose, to build awareness about Aga Khan Foundation's mission."

Mike Lewis, Regional President of Harris Bank, gave the keynote address speaking further about Aga Khan Foundation's efforts to provide access to healthcare and education in Asia and Africa. He likened the Foundation's dedication to the poorest parts of the world to Harris Bank's commitment to be present in both the best and worst neighborhoods in the city of Chicago. Karen Jordan, weekend news anchor and reporter for WLS-ABC Channel 7 served as master of ceremonies.

Partnership Walks are held in five major U.S. cities and over 20 cities across three continents. In addition to raising funds and walking, participants learn about the challenges and aspirations of people in developing countries through interactive educational exhibits and cultural performances.

Partnership Walk 2006 is scheduled for Sunday October 29 at Lincoln Park, Grove 7.

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An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network