



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

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**6,000 PARTICIPATED AT DALLAS PARTNERSHIP WALK
ON OCTOBER 14, 2007 TO HELP END GLOBAL POVERTY**

Dallas, Texas, October 14, 2007 – Over 6,000 people participated in the 3 mile Dallas Partnership Walk today, an event held annually in five major cities across the U.S. to raise awareness and funds to help alleviate global poverty. The Dallas Walk raised over \$370,000. Partnership Walk brought together families, community groups, students and leaders in government, business, media and the arts for a day of learning activities, fundraising and entertainment at City Hall Plaza from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm. There were 46 corporate and university teams registered to walk and raise funds including Electronic Data Systems (EDS), the University of Texas at Dallas MBA Society, Accenture, American Airlines, Prodea and the University of Texas at Dallas. Nationwide, over 13,000 participated in Partnership Walk, which was also held today in Chicago and Los Angeles. The Atlanta and Houston Partnership Walks are scheduled for Saturday, November 10, 2007.

Partnership Walk is an initiative of Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. (AKF USA) and organized by a network of volunteers in communities across America. **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. Over the past 11 years, 212,000 have participated in Partnership Walk across the U.S. raising over \$26 million.

At the opening ceremony, Texas Secretary of State Phil Wilson read a congratulatory message from Governor Rick Perry and Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert noted the enthusiastic participation of the diverse community at the Walk in celebrating the work of the Aga Khan Foundation. Other distinguished guests of the Dallas area as well as long-time supporters of the Walk included Congressman Pete Sessions, Mayor Pat Evans of Plano, Mayor Becky Miller of Carrollton, and Irving Councilwoman Beth Van Duyne. Serving as masters of ceremonies were Bob Ray Sanders, *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, Brenda Teele-Jackson, co-host, *Good Morning Texas* and Brad Hawkins, anchor, WFAA-TV. A stage program of music, dance and performances throughout the day engaged participants in a multicultural celebration of world cultures.

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An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network

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The theme for Partnership Walk 2007 was *Innovative Solutions to Create Hope and Opportunity*. Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. celebrated its 25th anniversary beginning in October 2006. This year's theme captured the depth, scope and impact of a quarter century of achievements. In every undertaking, the overriding goal of the Foundation's work is to assist in the struggle against poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy through the discovery and implementation of innovative solutions to development.

One of the Walk's most inspiring features is the *Global Village in Action*, through which participants of all ages engage in interactive activities to learn how people in developing countries overcome the challenges of low incomes, poor health conditions and limited educational opportunities.

All around the Walk site, participants took part in hands-on exercises and exhibits of the *Global Village in Action*. Games and hands-on activities like the microfinance maze and "Power of Ten" game showed how Aga Khan Foundation is alleviating suffering and hardship with innovative solutions that help people help themselves. Young and old enjoyed traveling virtually to Afghanistan, Egypt, East Africa, India and Pakistan as well as Central Asia to see how the Foundation is creating hope and opportunity in poor and often remote regions. As participants wandered through pavilions for each geographical region, they experienced a taste of the culture's traditions, music, dance and food. Quiz shows tested their "development IQ." Volunteers guided participants through exhibits to introduce them to the practical ways Aga Khan Foundation is using to alleviate hunger, disease, illiteracy and how it connects to and complements the work of other agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network.

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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