



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

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**THOUSANDS ARE EXPECTED AT CHICAGO PARTNERSHIP WALK
ON OCTOBER 29, 2006 TO HELP END GLOBAL POVERTY**

Chicago, Illinois, October 2006 – Over 3,000 are expected to participate in the Chicago Partnership Walk, an event held annually in five major cities across the U.S. to raise awareness and funds to help alleviate global poverty. The Walk brings together families, friends, students and leaders in government, business, media and the arts for a day of learning activities, fundraising and entertainment. Nationwide, over 30,000 are expected to participate in Partnership Walk.

Partnership Walk is an initiative of Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. (AKF USA) and organized by a network of volunteers in communities across the U.S. **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 Chicago Partnership Walk will be held on Sunday, October 29 at the Lincoln Park, Grove 7 (just south of the zoo) from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. An opening ceremony will feature distinguished guests and media celebrities, including Governor Rod Blagojevich and U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky, along with entertainment celebrating the diversity of world cultures. The program will be hosted by Judie Garcia, WGN-TV news anchor; Bill Moller, WGN radio host; Dr. Sandy Goldberg, NBC5 contributor and consultant; and Nesita Kwan NBC5 HealthWatch reporter and weekday anchor. Visit www.partnershipwalk.org for more information and to register on-line for the Walk.

The theme for Partnership Walk 2006 is “**Diversity is Strength**” which highlights the Foundation’s community-based approach that values pluralism as a cornerstone for building peace, security and development. The Foundation invests in people to help impoverished communities and families seize the opportunity to move toward greater choice and voice in order to improve their lives. By promoting quality education, improving health care and placing tools for economic empowerment into the hands of people, the Foundation helps them build the skills necessary to lead self-sufficient, healthy and dignified lives.

One of the Walk’s most inspiring features is the ***Village in Action***. 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. As this year marks AKF USA’s 25th anniversary, the ***Village in Action*** will showcase a quarter century of positive impact achieved through the Foundation’s projects in health, education, rural development, microcredit and community organizations. The displays, exhibits and hands-on demonstrations are planned and designed primarily by youth from local schools and universities. Through this process, youth in particular learn valuable lessons and gain a deeper understanding of global citizenship.

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An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network

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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 140 programs in 16 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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