



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

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SEATTLE PARTNERSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES \$270,000 TO END GLOBAL POVERTY

Seattle, Washington, July 31, 2009. Today at the Golf Club at Newcastle in Seattle, Washington, 134 golfers took a swing at ending global poverty in the annual Partnership Golf Tournament. Partnership Golf is an initiative of Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. (AKF USA) to raise awareness and funds in an effort to reduce hunger, disease, illiteracy and poverty in Africa and Asia. Approximately \$270,000 was raised at today's charity event.

With over half of the world's population living on less than \$2 per day, golfers participating at this charity tournament help communities in some of the poorest areas of Africa and Asia create long-term, self-help solutions to lift themselves out of poverty. **One hundred percent of donations and all net proceeds from the Partnership Golf tournament go directly to projects** supported by the Foundation; not a cent is spent on administration. AKF USA is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code.

This marks the second annual Seattle Partnership Golf tournament, building on the remarkable success of the previous year. In 2007-2008, 17 Partnership Golf tournaments were held across the U.S. in 9 major cities, raising \$1.2 million and involving over 2,000 golfers and sponsors. Additional tournaments are being held throughout 2009 in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and other major U.S. cities. Visit the Partnership Golf website at www.partnershipgolf.org for further information.

The second annual Partnership Golf Tournament in Seattle was a grand affair, held on a beautiful sunny summer day. With stunning mountain and city vistas at every hole, the Golf Club at Newcastle's signature course offered first-class amenities to the golfers and guests. The tournament featured varied activities and contests at each hole which excited and engaged golfers throughout the day. Partnership Golf offers a variety of attractive sponsorship opportunities with value-added benefits to give maximum exposure to corporations, businesses and individuals.

Following the tournament, some 260 golfers and guests enjoyed a reception, silent auction, art exhibit, awards banquet with entertainment and a live auction. At the banquet, Iqbal Noor Ali, Chief Executive Officer of Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. delivered the keynote remarks. Mr. Noor Ali highlighted the importance of partnerships and the impact that it has on all of us in an interconnected world. "We think about physical bridges and we think about metaphorical bridges. At the Aga Khan Development Network we build both....You've come here to have an evening of joy and merriment, of singing and dancing but I want to remind you that you are also building a metaphorical bridge between you and people in other countries, enabling them and their children to improve their quality of life, to improve their future, to improve their prospects for becoming citizens of the world." John Curley, former host of King 5 TV's *Evening Magazine*, hosted the evening event and live auction as the master of ceremonies. One of the highlights of the event was the art exhibit, which featured original works by acclaimed artist Fahim Hamid Ali that depicted images from the regions where the Aga Khan Foundation projects are taking place in Africa.

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An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network

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While enjoying a day out on the course with friends and colleagues at Partnership Golf, golfers contribute as socially responsible citizens to a worthy cause. Golfers play a valuable role by supporting the Foundation's grassroots projects that alleviate suffering and promote pluralism, peace and security in some of the most challenging regions around the globe. Aga Khan Foundation invests in people to help impoverished communities and families seize the opportunity to move toward greater voice and choice in order to improve their quality of living. By promoting quality education for girls in Afghanistan, improving health care for mothers and infants in India and placing tools for economic empowerment into the hands of farmers in East Africa, the Foundation helps people build the skills necessary to lead self-sufficient, healthy and dignified lives.

Partnership Golf is inspired by the tremendous success of [Partnership Walk](#) – an annual event to raise awareness and funds to alleviate global poverty. Now in its 15th year, the U.S. Partnership Walk has been held in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles and Orlando.

Both Partnership Golf and Partnership Walk are Partnerships*InAction* events that give individuals an opportunity to actively take part in advancing human dignity and peace around the globe through volunteerism, awareness-raising and contributions. Since the first Walk in 1995 in Los Angeles, 46 Walks, 17 golf tournaments and numerous other Partnerships*InAction* activities have attracted over 280,000 participants and raised \$32 million. Walk, Golf and other global education activities involve young and old in a compassionate effort to build bridges of hope that reach across boundaries of race, religion, creed, age and gender. Visit www.partnershipsinaction.org for further information.

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 health, education, rural development, civil society and the environment in 18 countries in Africa and South and Central Asia, benefiting the common good of all citizens regardless of their gender, origin or religion.

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