



## AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **GOLFERS TAKE A SWING TO END GLOBAL POVERTY AT SEATTLE PARTNERSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Seattle, Washington, July 15, 2009.** On July 31, 2009, 144 golfers are expected to take a swing at ending global poverty in the annual Partnership Golf Tournament at the Golf Club at Newcastle. 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.

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](http://www.partnershipgolf.org) for further information.

The tournament begins with a shotgun start at 12:00 noon following registration and check-in, driving range and putting green open, putting contest, silent auction and drawing preview. Partnership Golf offers a variety of attractive sponsorship opportunities with value-added benefits to give maximum exposure to corporations, businesses and individuals. There are numerous on-course contests and activities to add more fun and challenge to the day's tournament.

Following the tournament, some 275 golfers and guests will enjoy a reception, silent auction, art exhibit, awards banquet with entertainment and a live auction. The master of ceremonies for the evening event and live auction will be John Curley, former host of King 5 TV's *Evening Magazine*. The art exhibit features original works by acclaimed artist Fahim Ali that depict images from the regions where the Aga Khan Foundation projects are taking place in Africa.

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.

... OVER

*An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network*

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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.

**For further information, please contact:**

Dr. Karim Alibhai, Convener, Seattle Partnerships*InAction* Golf Team  
phone: (425) 503-9669 email: [seattle@partnershipgolf.org](mailto:seattle@partnershipgolf.org)

Ms. Martha Sipple, Communications & Public Affairs Officer, Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.  
phone: 202-293-2537 cell: 202-203-0838 email: [msipple@akfusa.org](mailto:msipple@akfusa.org)

###

