



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

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**375 WALK TO END GLOBAL POVERTY
AT SAN FRANCISCO PARTNERSHIP WALK ON SEPTEMBER 27**

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, September 27, 2009 – Over 375 walkers participated in the San Francisco Partnership Walk, an event held annually in major cities across the U.S. The Walk is an initiative of Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. (AKF USA) to raise awareness and funds to alleviate global poverty and promote partnership between America and the developing world.

The trek over the Golden Gate Bridge brought together families, friends, students and leaders in government, business, media and the arts for a day of learning activities, fundraising and culturally diverse performances. At the Walk, \$70,000 was raised for projects that help communities in Asia and Africa lift themselves out of poverty. **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 San Francisco Partnership Walk was held on Sunday, September 27 at 10:00 a.m. at West Bluff Amphitheater in San Francisco, CA. Participants walked to demonstrate their support for ending global poverty. Nationwide, over 30,000 are expected to participate in the Walk in nine cities. At an opening ceremony Jeff Morgan, Executive Director, Global Heritage Fund highlighted the Foundation's work around the world. "I want to thank the Aga Khan Foundation for their leadership in building a global community and bringing people together around the world. The Foundation is working in the most dangerous, the most difficult areas to help the most disenfranchised, the most rural people that are out there today."

The program featured lively entertainment celebrating the diversity of world cultures and educational exhibits for the entire family. Teams from corporations, universities, schools and community organizations attended the San Francisco Partnership Walk to take a step to end global poverty. Visit the Partnership Walk website at www.PartnershipsInAction.org/walk.

The 2009 theme for the Walk, "*Education – The Universal Bridge*" highlighted the impact of Aga Khan Foundation's educational activities. Serving as a bridge to help individuals and communities build more productive, fulfilling and dignified lives, the Foundation's educational activities span across a broad range of initiatives to help people in Asia and Africa reach their full potential, covering early childhood development, primary and secondary school improvement, and skills and management training for professionals, entrepreneurs and community members.

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An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network

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Aga Khan Foundation's education programs bring to light the power of partnerships and reflect the Foundation's enduring commitment to education. For over a quarter century, Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. has worked in the developing world in the areas of health, education, rural development, civil society and the environment. These efforts equip people with life-long skills to overcome poverty and embrace the time-tested principle of helping people to help themselves.

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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