



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

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**GOLFERS TAKE SWING TO END GLOBAL POVERTY
AT CHICAGO GOLF TOURNAMENT**

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, JULY 22, 2011. Today, 88 golfers took a swing at ending global poverty by raising over \$83,000 in the fifth annual Chicago Partnership Golf tournament at the Ruffled Feathers Golf Club in Lemont, Illinois.

Partnerships*InAction* Golf is an initiative of Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. (AKF USA) to raise awareness and funds that reduce poverty, hunger, illiteracy and poor health in Africa and Asia. **One hundred percent of all donations and net proceeds from the tournament go directly to projects supported by AKF USA; not a cent is spent on administration.**

Although the day began stormy, the luncheon brought together 140 corporate executives, civic and business leaders and media personalities to network and learn more about AKF USA's work. Distinguished guests included Jesse White, Illinois Secretary of State; Robert (Bobby) Shilling, U.S. Representative, Illinois; Ron Sutter, Circuit Court Judge, DuPage County; and Alvin Bel, CEO of Big Pawn, Inc. Gaynor Hall, WGN-TV Reporter and CLTV Weekend Anchor, served as emcee for the luncheon program, and Joanne Trotter, Director of Programs for AKF USA was guest speaker.

Ms. Trotter described several stirring examples of how donations from events like Partnership Golf are “not about giving handouts to the poor, but rather are providing the economic opportunities for those less fortunate to help themselves and their communities.” Explaining how simple interventions can change lives, she noted an example: “Working with farmers to experiment with new seed varieties and introduce winter wheat in northern Afghanistan cut the hungry season from 4 to 0 months, and families now have enough to eat all year round. Thank you for all you do on behalf of so many; tens of thousands benefit from your contributions all over the world.”

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. Partnership Golf is held in eight major U.S. cities and since 2007 over 3,400 golfers and sponsors have participated and raised funds for AKF USA. Beginning in 1995, annual Walks, Golf tournaments, and other Partnerships*InAction* activities have attracted over 350,000 participants and raised \$42 million for poverty alleviation projects supported by AKF USA.

Golfers not only raised money for people in need but also participated in a variety of fun challenges including a golf ball canon, putting, longest drive, and hole-in-one contests as well as a silent auction.

AKF USA, established in 1981, is a private, non-denominational, not-for-profit international development organization committed to alleviating poverty, hunger, illiteracy and poor health. AKF USA works to address the root causes of poverty by supporting and sharing innovative solutions in the areas of health, education, rural development, civil society, and the environment. AKF USA is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code.

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An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network

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 Network's agencies work for the common good of all citizens, regardless of their gender, origin or religion and its underlying impulse is the ethic of compassion for the vulnerable in society.

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