



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

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**4,500 WALK TO END GLOBAL POVERTY AT
DALLAS PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION WALK**

DALLAS, TEXAS, October 29, 2011. Today, 4,500 walked to end global poverty in the 17th annual Partnership Walk at The Shops at Legacy in Plano, Texas. The [Dallas Partnership Walk](#) 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.

Dallas's [2011 Walk](#) raised \$630,000. **100% of the funds raised at Partnership Walk go directly to projects sponsored by the Foundation;** not a cent is spent on administration.

Additionally, over \$60,000 were raised by Prince Hussain Aga Khan's photography exhibit entitled, "And on the Last Day...Plant a Tree" that raised awareness about the [Aga Khan Development Network's](#) (AKDN) ongoing environment activities and aligned with this year's theme of "Building Resilient Communities." Donations raised from the exhibit will benefit projects supported by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan Fund for Environment.

The event featured a 5K competitive Run, a 1K Youth Fun Run along with the 3K family Walk. The Walk also featured lively entertainment and activities for all ages celebrating the diversity of world cultures. One of Partnership Walk's most inspiring features was the Village in Action showcasing AKF USA projects in Africa and Asia that help communities to become self-sufficient and overcome the obstacles of poverty. At the Village in Action, visitors circulated through exhibits on a global citizen's journey to learn about energy-efficient home improvements in Pakistan, a tree-planting campaign in Kenya in partnership with the [Lions Clubs International](#), health care for mothers and children in India, microfinance solutions that lift the poor out of poverty, and the positive impact of girls' education in Afghanistan.

The Walk attracted many high-profile guests and civic leaders including guest speaker Plano Mayor Pro Tem Pat Miner who, on behalf of Plano's mayor and city council, noted the importance of AKF's projects and "Proclaimed today, Saturday, October 29, 2011 Partnership Walk and Run Day in Plano. We encourage all citizens to join us in congratulating you, the runners and walkers, and your great willingness to give your time and effort is greatly appreciated. Plano also thanks those for organizing, contributing and sponsoring, and we thank you for all that you do to make the world a better place." Serving as master of ceremonies for the morning program was CBS 11 Reporter Arezow Doost. Bob Ray Sanders, editor and columnist for the Fort Worth Star Telegram hosted as master of ceremonies for the afternoon program. Other distinguished guests included Mathew Marchant, Mayor, City of Carrollton; Lisa Sutter, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Carrollton; and S. Zulfi Sadeque, Consul & Senior Trade Commissioner, Canadian Consulate General.

To learn more about the event or make a donation, visit www.PartnershipsInAction.org/walk.

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Partnership Walk events are being held in nine major U.S. cities this year. Since 1995, [PartnershipsInAction activities](#) including the annual Partnerships Walk and Golf tournaments have attracted over 350,000 participants and raised \$42 million for poverty alleviation projects supported by AKF USA. Participants help communities in some of the poorest areas of Africa and Asia create self-help solutions to lift themselves out of poverty. Contributions make a tremendous impact in creating opportunities for girls in Afghanistan to go to school, for farmers in Mali and Tajikistan to feed their families, and for mothers in India to lead healthy lives.

Visitors to the Dallas Partnership Walk had an opportunity to view Prince Hussain Aga Khan's photography at an exhibit entitled, "*And on the Last Day...Plant a Tree*" that raised awareness about the [Aga Khan Development Network's](#) (AKDN) ongoing environment activities and aligned with this year's theme of "Building Resilient Communities." Another exhibit that captivated the attention of visitors was a display depicting the story of AKDN's response of recovery and reconstruction to the 2010 floods in Pakistan that devastated one-fifth of the country. The display highlighted how AKDN has worked with local communities to build new shelters and infrastructure, and address multiple urgent needs such as health, food security, agriculture, income generation and disaster preparedness.

About Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.

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.

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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