



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

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**10,400 WALK TO END GLOBAL POVERTY AT
HOUSTON PARTNERSHIPS *IN ACTION* WALK**

HOUSTON, TEXAS, November 12, 2011. On November 12, over 10,400 walked to end global poverty in the 17th annual Partnership Walk at Sam Houston Park in downtown Houston. The Houston 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.

Houston's [2011 Walk](#) raised over \$1.25 million. **100% of the funds raised at Partnership Walk go directly to projects sponsored by the Foundation;** not a cent is spent on administration.

The Walk featured lively entertainment and activities for all ages to celebrate the diversity of world cultures. The iRun for youth was held prior to the Walk. One of the most inspiring features of Partnership Walk was the *Village in Action*, where participants enjoyed interactive displays and hands-on exhibits that spotlighted how the Foundation is implementing creative solutions in poor regions from Afghanistan to Zanzibar.

Partnership Walk attracted high-profile guests and civic leaders including keynote speaker The Honorable Marty McVey, Board Member for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Board for International Food and Agricultural Development and President of McVey & Co. Investments LLC. "Together we have an opportunity," McVey said, speaking of the Foundation's work with USAID and the contributions of Partnership Walk. "We have the ability to make a difference for the ones who have the most need." He cited the examples of USAID's work with AKF USA in early education, rural development and disaster risk reduction.

Bobby Moon, international pop and R&B singer/songwriter was one of the hosts of the event. Distinguished guests in attendance included U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Lee Jackson (18th district), U.S. Congressman Al Green (9th district), and Larry Shine, President of the Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters. Congressman Green, a strong supporter of Partnerships *In Action*, said that working together on projects in developing countries, the U.S. government and the Aga Khan Foundation "find a way to make sure education is available to people who ordinarily wouldn't get it, educating people who would ordinarily be beyond the classroom." He added, "You're showing the soft power of the United States, and I thank you."

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To learn more about the event and register, volunteer, become a sponsor, or make a donation, visit www.partnershipsinaction.org/walk.

Partnership Walk events will be held in nine major U.S. cities this year. Since 1995, *PartnershipsInAction* activities including the annual Partnership 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 to feed their families, and for mothers in India to lead healthy lives.

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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