



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

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**WALK TO END GLOBAL POVERTY AT
ORLANDO PARTNERSHIP *SIN* ACTION WALK**

ORLANDO, FLORIDA, October 30, 2011. Today, over 1,800 walked to end global poverty in the annual Partnership Walk at Lake Eola Park. The [Orlando 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.

Orlando's [2011 Walk](#) raised over \$220,000. **100% of the funds raised at Partnership Walk go directly to projects sponsored by the Foundation;** not a cent is spent on administration.

Along with a lively entertainment program celebrating the diversity of world cultures, Partnership Walk attracted high-profile guests and civic leaders including Lawson Lamar, State Attorney for Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida and Scott Randolph of the Florida House of Representatives. Yvonne Coleman of Smooth Radio DJ Jazz 103, WLOQ, served as master of ceremonies for the event. In his keynote address, Lawson Lamar acknowledged, "The Foundation is about working on solutions that last. The approach is to invest time, skills and knowledge into communities and come up with goals by working *with* the communities, which they agree on because they are bought into process. The Foundation doesn't make them accept a solution; it helps them *find* a solution. The AKF method of engaging people to be able to help themselves, educate their children, and lift themselves out of poverty will create a situation that builds a better future not only for those countries, not only for those families, but for us here in the Western world."

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 interactive *Village in Action*, Walk participants visited exhibits to learn about alternative energy solutions, early childhood development, and the Aga Khan Development Network's bridge-building between Afghanistan and Tajikistan. 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, which 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.

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The entertainment program included lively performances by Lake Mary High School Band drum line, Ready Set Dance studio, So So Desi and Pathik Band and the Traditional Martial Arts Center, among others. Teams from local universities and schools as well as community groups, such as the Youth for Humanity and Youth for Human Rights participated in the Walk that circled around the beautiful Lake Eola.

To learn more about the event 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 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 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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