



**AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WALK TO END GLOBAL POVERTY AT  
SAN FRANCISCO PARTNERSHIP *SIN* ACTION WALK**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, October 9, 2011.** Today, over 1,000 Bay Area residents walked to end global poverty in the annual Partnership Walk at Central Park in Fremont. The [San Francisco 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.

San Francisco's [2011 Walk](#) raised over \$200,000. **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 many high-profile guests and civic leaders including Dr. Ken Wilson, Executive Director of the Christensen Fund, who gave the keynote speech, saying: "Over the last 20 years I have had repeated opportunities to see the work that the Aga Khan Foundation and its sister organizations have been doing in Africa, in Central Asia and the Middle East. It is inspiring work.... It starts and ends with people. It starts with all the volunteers that we see today. It is work that is driven by the passion of people. It values the people themselves in the communities, valuing their knowledge, creativity, heritage and culture as assets and helps them build new institutions that start from their strength, passion and values."

Also participating in the opening ceremonies was Cassie Doyle, Consul General of Canada in Northern California, who remarked that she was proud to say that Partnership Walk began internationally in her home town of Vancouver, BC in 1985 and has spread to many cities over the last 25 years.

Other distinguished guests at the opening ceremony included Ashley Roybal-Reid, Congressional Aide, Office of U.S. Congressman Mike Honda; Andrae G. Macapinlac, Senior Field Representative for California State Assemblyman Bob Weickowski; Anu Natarajan, Fremont City Council Member; Chris Salien representing Milpitas Mayor Jose Esteves; and Ash Kalra, San Jose City Council Member.

Music, dance and cultural performances at the Partnership Walk included The Tudes School of Dance, Mission San Jose High Chamber Choral, Shaolin Temple, Creators' University, Mission San Jose High Cheer Team.

...OVER/

*An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network*

---

1825 K Street, N.W., Suite 901, Washington, D.C. 20006  
Telephone: (202) 293-2537, Facsimile: (202) 785-1752, Website: [www.akdn.org](http://www.akdn.org)  
[info@akfusa.org](mailto:info@akfusa.org)

To learn more about the event or make a donation, visit [www.partnershipsinaction.org/walk](http://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](http://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.

### **For further information, please contact:**

Ms. Kausar Mohammed  
Media Coordinator  
AKF USA Volunteer Team for San Francisco  
email: [kausar.mohd@gmail.com](mailto:kausar.mohd@gmail.com)

Ms. Martha Sipple  
Communications & Public Affairs Manager  
Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.  
phone: 202-293-2537 cell: 202-203-0838  
email: [msipple@akfusa.org](mailto:msipple@akfusa.org)

