



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

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**ATLANTA TAKES A STEP TO END GLOBAL POVERTY
AT PARTNERSHIP WALK/RUN**

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, SEPTEMBER 14, 2014. Today over 5,000 participants participated in the race to end global poverty in the annual Atlanta Partnership Walk / Run at Centennial Olympic Park. The [Atlanta Partnership Walk/Run](#) 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.

Today's event raised over \$1.2 million for AKF USA programs worldwide. **100% of the funds raised at Partnership Walk go directly to projects supported by the Foundation;** not a cent is spent on administration.

The event was a day of fun for the whole family and one that Atlantans look forward to every year. It featured a 5K Run (ages 13 and up), 1K Run (ages 7 - 12), 100-Yard Dash (ages 6 and under), and Walk (all ages). Moreover, nearly 800 students from thirty-seven schools and universities from local Atlanta participated in today's event while over 400 students volunteered their time in various capacities.

Over 500 5K Runners began the race promptly at 8:30 am and finishing in 1st, 2nd and 3rd place were:

1st Place Female Winner: Tina Klein
1st Place Male Winner: Malcolm Campbell
2nd Place Winner: Shehan Parmar
3rd Place Winner: Rick Floyd

The keynote speaker was Bernard Taylor, Senior Member of the National Board of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. Taylor provided examples of how the AKF has provided practical solutions to countries such as Mali, Kenya, Tajikistan and Afghanistan, and how these communities have been able to maintain a self-reliant, life-improving infrastructure. His support of the AKF's work is summarized in his final remarks, during which he stated "Participating in the Partnership Walk represents another example of nurturing cooperation and collaboration across borders, across different ethnicities, across faiths, across backgrounds, across generations... it is a grassroots movement with the single purpose of ending poverty with movement by so many different people together sharing a collective passion for justice, dignity and hope."

Serving as masters of ceremonies for the on-stage opening ceremonies were Craig Lucie, WSB-TV Anchor and Martin Savidge, CNN Anchor. This year's **5K** course was a certified **USA Track & Field** course and the race was a **Certified Peachtree Road Race Qualifier!** At this year's Run, Country Rock Band Haley & Alexis gave a post-Run concert LIVE! The Walk also included activities for all ages celebrating a rich diversity of cultures. ... OVER/

An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network

One of the most inspiring features of Partnership Walk was the *Village in Action*, where participants enjoyed fun exhibits spotlighting the Foundation's practical solutions for alleviating global poverty. There, participants were able to test themselves in the Al-Azhar park maze, see a working model of a hydropower dam in Central Asia, and play games such as Kho Kho and Snake Tag in the madaan. The Village in Action also showcased arts and crafts activities along with a fun-filled mela. Attendees thoroughly enjoyed the life-sized replica of India's magnificent Humayun's Tomb, an Aga Khan Trust for Culture initiative.

This year marked the 20th anniversary for Partnership Walk events, which are being held in eight major U.S. cities. Since 1995, [PartnershipsInAction](#) activities including the annual Partnership Walk and Golf events have attracted over 440,000 participants and raised over \$63 million for poverty alleviation projects supported by AKF USA.

Participants help communities in some of the poorest areas of Africa and Asia to create long-term, self-help solutions to lift themselves out of poverty. These 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 mothers in India to lead healthy lives.

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.

For further information, please contact:

Ms. Shaheen Bhimani
Media Coordinator
AKF USA Volunteer Team for Atlanta Walk
cell: 917-660-7860
email: bhimani.shaheen@gmail.com
or atlanta@partnershipwalk.org

Ms. Martha Sipple
Communications & Public Affairs Manager
Aga Khan Foundation USA
phone: 202-293-2537 cell: 202-203-0838
email: Martha.Sipple@akdn.org

Ms. Shaniza Manjiyani
Director of Communications
AKF USA Volunteer Team for Atlanta Walk
Cell: 404-406-3502
Email: Shaniza@bellsouth.net

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