



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

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**2,100 WALK IN LOS ANGELES TO END GLOBAL POVERTY
AT PARTNERSHIP WALK**

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, September 14, 2014. Today, 2,100 participants walked to end global poverty in the annual Los Angeles Partnership Walk at the Santa Monica Pier. The [Los Angeles 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.

Today's event raised over \$415,000 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 is a day of fun for the whole family with lively entertainment and activities for all ages celebrating a rich diversity of cultures. Beverly White, KNBC-4 anchor, served as a dynamic master of ceremonies, enthusiastically highlighting the Walk's 20th anniversary and recalling how she had participated when it was held at the Rose Bowl in the past decade. Keynote speaker Congresswoman Karen Bass, representing the 37th District of California observed, "All of us grew up wanting to change the world and that's what the Aga Khan Foundation does. I have visited most of the African countries where AKF works and I know first hand what it means to provide resources and support."

Mayor Pam O'Connor noted "Partnership Walk is a local event where you have the opportunity to act as a global citizen, and do your part to humankind ... and that starts here in Santa Monica." Other speakers included California State Senator Ted Lieu; and Mr. Aziz Valliani, Chairman of the National Committee for Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. Other dignitaries included California State Assembly members Richard Bloom and Matt Dababneh. Participating entertainers included actors Rizvan Manji (from *Outsourced*), Iqbal Theba (from *Glee*), Noureen DeWulf (from *Anger Management*) and celebrity trainer Dion Jackson.

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. To learn more about the event, visit <http://www.partnershipsinaction.org/LA>.

Participants helped 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

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An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network

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.

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