



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

**SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, October 19, 2014.** Today nearly 1,000 participants raced to end global poverty in the annual San Francisco Partnership Walk/Run at Central Park – Lake Elizabeth in Fremont, CA. 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.

The charity event raised \$316,000 for AKF USA programs worldwide. **100% of the funds raised at Partnership Walk/Run 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. Attendees enjoyed a lively entertainment program celebrating a rich diversity of cultures. This year's speakers included Mrs. Almaz Negash, Managing Director for STEP UP Silicon Valley and Mr. Michael Collopy with Architects of Peace Foundation. They both spoke about the Aga Khan Development Network's emphasis on human dignity, treating all with respect and compassion, and the importance of service to your community. Mr. Collopy put the spirit of the walk into words, saying "service to others means courage, empathy, compassion, and respect."

One of the most inspiring features of Partnership Walk was the *Village in Action*, where participants enjoyed interactive exhibits spotlighting the Foundation's practical solutions for alleviating poverty from Afghanistan to Zanzibar. This year, the *Village* was organized by student groups from five local high schools: Notre Dame, Monte Vista, California High School, Harker, Cupertino High School, and Mission San Jose. Each school focused on one of the five main work areas of the Aga Khan Foundation: education, health, rural development, the environment, and civil society. Highlights include a schoolroom in the Kyrgyz Republic and the story of how mobile accessible healthcare (eHealth) helped a family in rural Afghanistan save their baby's life.

To learn more about the event, visit [www.partnershipsinaction.org/san-francisco](http://www.partnershipsinaction.org/san-francisco).

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Partnership Walk events, which was 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.

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*An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network*

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.

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