



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

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**1,800 IN SAN ANTONIO TAKE  
A STEP TO END GLOBAL POVERTY  
AT PARTNERSHIP WALK / RUN**

**SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, September 21, 2014.** Today, 1,800 people walked to end global poverty in the annual San Antonio Partnership Walk / Run at La Villita Historic Arts Village. The [San Antonio 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 \$293,000 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. Young children ran in the iRun, a 100-yard dash. All attendees enjoyed a lively entertainment program celebrating a rich diversity of cultures in the amphitheater along River Walk.

In welcoming remarks prior to the Walk's ribbon cutting, Dr. Suleman Lalani, Chairman of the AKF USA Volunteer Team for the Southwest Region thanked participants for making an impact, noting "we have never really lived until we have helped somebody somewhere who can never repay us. By coming to Partnership Walk today and deciding to support the Aga Khan Foundation, somewhere, a child is able to go to school, a woman is getting good health care, and a gentleman is able to put food on the table for his family. That is possible because of people like you."

Keynote speaker Al Suarez, Mayor of Converse, Texas, expressed his commitment of support to Aga Khan Foundation's cause. "I am a big supporter of the Aga Khan Foundation. As a child I grew up right here in San Antonio with a very large family in poverty-like conditions. I will never forget that. I know what it is like to be hungry as a child. I know what it is like to attend school hungry and to go to bed hungry. I am here to do my part to fight global poverty. Together, we will all make a difference in the fight to end global poverty. We can do very little individually, but we can make a big impact together."

One of the most inspiring features of Partnership Walk is the *Village in Action*, where youth from Ronald Reagan High School joined with Aga Khan Foundation volunteers to perform a series of skits to demonstrate the Foundation's practical solutions for alleviating poverty. The students enacted stories about hydroelectric power helping rural communities in Tajikistan, improving farmers' cashew crops in Mozambique, health workers in remote areas of Afghanistan using eHealth to consult with specialists and save lives, and early childhood reading programs that boost readiness for school.

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*An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network*

This year marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Partnership Walk events, which are being held in eight major U.S. cities. Since 1995, [PartnershipsInAction](#) activities including the annual Partnership Walk, Run 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](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. Nazli Siddiqui  
Media Coordinator  
AKF USA Volunteer Team for Southwest  
Region  
cell: 210-391-3915  
email: [nazli07@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nazli07@sbcglobal.net)

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

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