



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION
An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network

PRESS RELEASE

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**ATLANTA MOVES TO BUILD BETTER FUTURES
AT AGA KHAN FOUNDATION WALK/RUN, RAISING \$3.3 MILLION**

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, SEPTEMBER 23, 2015. On Sunday, September 20, 2015, more than 5,000 Atlantans including over 600 runners moved to invest in long-term solutions that improve the quality of life for communities worldwide. The annual Aga Khan Foundation Walk/Run - Atlanta, at Centennial Olympic Park, raised **\$1.6 million with an additional \$1.4 million match from AEON Foundation** for programs that work with communities around the world to build better futures and **an additional \$300,000 for early childhood education.** 100% of the funds raised at the event will go directly to projects supported by the Foundation.

Masters of Ceremonies Craig Lucie and Wendy Corona led the charity event that attracted a range of local leaders along with sponsors across the metro area, including national sponsor, The Coca-Cola Company, and partner, AEON Foundation. Speakers included Brad Morris, National Director of Retail Sales for The Coca-Cola Company, Dr. Mirza Jahani, departing CEO of the Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A., and Mr. Aleem Walji, the Foundation's incoming CEO, as well as Mehboob Hussain, Chairman of the Atlanta Retailers Association.

Welcoming the participants, the Foundation's volunteer Chairman for the Southeast region, Mr. Irfan Merchant said, "The Foundation enjoys a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, which is the highest rating in assessing non-profit organizations." The event attracted a range of participants eager to help communities in some of the poorest areas of Africa and Asia improve their quality of life. The contributions raised at the Walk make a tremendous impact in creating locally driven opportunities for girls in Central Asia to attend school, farmers in Africa to feed their families, and mothers in India to lead healthy lives. These are the cornerstones of a thriving community.

Aga Khan Foundation is committed to breaking the cycle of poverty by cultivating deep partnerships with local businesses, nonprofits, governments and community leaders to harness the best from people of all walks of life. Working with our partners, we make long-term commitments to innovative programs that improve the quality of life, from early childhood education to green space preservation. Visit our blog to learn more about what we do, at www.akfusa.org.

To learn more about the event, visit <http://akfwalkrun-atlanta.crowdsterapp.com>.

Run and Walk events for Aga Khan Foundation will be held in at least 11 major U.S. cities this year. Since 1995, the Foundation's activities including the annual Walk/Run and Golf events have attracted nearly a half million participants and raised \$75 million for poverty alleviation projects supported by the foundation.

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AKF is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code. AKF is a member of the Aga Khan Development Network (www.akdn.org), one of the world's leading poverty solutions networks, established by His Highness the Aga Khan. The Network empowers communities and individuals, often in disadvantaged circumstances, improve living conditions and grow opportunities. The Network's agencies work for the common good of all citizens, regardless of their gender, origin or religion. Its underlying impulse is the ethic of compassion for the vulnerable in society.

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