



## AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISED \$220,000 TO HELP END GLOBAL POVERTY**

**Houston, Texas, June 15, 2009.** Today at the Sweetwater Country Club in Sugar Land, 154 golfers took a swing at ending global poverty in the annual Partnership Golf Tournament. Partnership Golf is an initiative of Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. (AKF USA) to raise awareness and funds that reduce hunger, disease, illiteracy and poverty in Africa and Asia. Approximately \$220,000 was raised at today's charity event.

With over half of the world's population living on less than \$2 per day, golfers participating at this charity tournament help communities in some of the poorest areas of Africa and Asia create long-term, self-help solutions to lift themselves out of poverty. **One hundred percent of donations and all net proceeds from the Partnership Golf tournament go directly to projects** supported by the Foundation; not a cent is spent on administration. AKF USA is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code.

This marks the third annual Houston Partnership Golf tournament, building on the remarkable success of the two previous years. Since 2007, 17 Partnership Golf tournaments have been held across the U.S. in 9 major cities, raising \$1.2 million and involving over 2,000 golfers and sponsors. Additional tournaments will be held throughout 2009 in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, San Antonio, Seattle and other major U.S. cities. Visit the Partnership Golf website at [www.partnershipgolf.org](http://www.partnershipgolf.org) for further information.

Today's event brought together corporate and civic leaders, entrepreneurs and colleagues, who enjoyed on-course contests and challenges including a helicopter golf ball drop, a hole-in-one contest and the longest drive competition. The tournament was followed by an awards banquet with live and silent auctions. Lauren Lanning, producer/reporter for KTBU Channel 55's "Wild About Houston" hosted the evening program. The live auction was conducted by the witty and entertaining Shorty Yeaman, with 25 years of experience as a professional auctioneer.

David Wallace, Chief Executive Officer for Wallace Bajjali Development Partners, LP and was former mayor of Sugar Land, delivered the keynote remarks. Wallace spoke about the power of partnerships and the impact that it has on all of us in our interconnected world. He acknowledged the symbolism of the Friendship Bridge exhibit at the entrance of the banquet hall noting that "it was not just a fictitious bridge, but an actual bridge funded by the Aga Khan Development Network at the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan," which has helped to accelerate the pace of development with the emergence of local markets around the bridges.

While enjoying a day out on the course with friends and colleagues, Partnership Golf offers golfers a special opportunity to contribute as socially responsible citizens to a worthy cause. Golfers play a valuable role by supporting the Foundation's grassroots projects that alleviate suffering and promote pluralism, peace and security in some of the most challenging regions around the globe. Aga Khan Foundation invests in people to help impoverished communities and families seize the opportunity to move toward greater voice and choice in order to improve their quality of living. By promoting quality education for girls in Afghanistan, improving health care for mothers and infants in India and placing tools for economic empowerment into the hands of farmers in East Africa, the Foundation helps them build the skills necessary to lead self-sufficient, healthy and dignified lives.

... OVER

*An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network*

Partnership Golf is inspired by the tremendous success of [Partnership Walk](#) – an annual event to raise awareness and funds to alleviate global poverty. Now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, the U.S. Partnership Walk has been held in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles and Orlando. Both Partnership Golf and Partnership Walk are Partnerships*InAction* events that give individuals an opportunity to actively take part in advancing human dignity and peace around the globe through volunteerism, awareness-raising and contributions. Since the first Walk in 1995 in Los Angeles, 46 Walks, 17 golf tournaments and numerous other Partnerships*InAction* activities have attracted over 280,000 participants and raised \$32 million. Along with Walk and Golf, other events include global education activities, involving young and old in a compassionate effort as global citizens to build bridges of hope reaching across boundaries of race, religion, creed, age and gender. Visit [www.partnershipsinaction.org](http://www.partnershipsinaction.org) for further information.

AKF USA, established in 1981, is a private, non-denominational, non-profit international development organization committed to alleviating poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy. 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 overarching goal of the Network's programs is to help poor communities achieve a level of self-reliance whereby they are able to plan their own futures. The Foundation presently supports over 100 programs in health, education, rural development, civil society and the environment in 18 countries for the common good of all citizens regardless of their gender, origin or religion. The geographic focus of the Foundation's development programs is in East Africa and South and Central Asia.

**For further information, please contact:**

Mr. Naushad Kermally, Regional Chairman, Houston AKF USA Volunteer Team  
phone: 271-275-6815 email: [Naushad@primecomms.com](mailto:Naushad@primecomms.com)

Ms. Martha Sipple, Communications & Public Affairs Officer, Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.  
phone: 202-293-2537 cell: 202-203-0838 email: [msipple@akfusa.org](mailto:msipple@akfusa.org)

