



## AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **ATLANTA GOLFERS RAISE \$65,000 TO HELP END GLOBAL POVERTY AT THE ATLANTA PARTNERSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Atlanta, Georgia, May 13, 2008** – Today at the Country Club of the South, 86 golfers took a swing at ending global poverty at the annual Partnership Golf Tournament. Partnership Golf is an initiative of Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. (AKF USA) to raise funds and awareness to eliminate hunger, disease, illiteracy and poverty in Africa and Asia. Approximately \$65,000 were raised at today's charity event.

With over half of the world's population surviving on less than \$2 per day, golfers participating at this tournament help communities in some of the poorest areas of Africa and Asia create long-term, self-help solutions to reduce conditions of poverty. 100% 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.

While enjoying a day out on the green with friends and colleagues, Partnership Golf offers Americans an exclusive opportunity to create broader awareness about the role that community-based international development projects play in promoting peace and global security. In 2007, Partnership Golf tournaments were held in 8 major U.S. cities raising \$350,000 with over 1,000 golfers and sponsors. Additional tournaments will be held throughout 2008 in Chicago, Dallas, Houston, 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.

Partnership Golf is inspired by the tremendous success of [Partnership Walk](http://www.partnershipwalk.org) – an annual event to raise awareness and funds to alleviate global poverty. The U.S. Partnership Walk has been held in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Houston and Los Angeles for the past 12 years attracting over 239,000 participants and raising over \$28 million nationwide. Both Partnership Golf and Partnership Walk are PartnershipsInAction 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. Along with Walk and Golf, 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.

To kick off the tournament Mayor of Johns Creek, Mike Bodker greeted the golfers at the start of the event and thanked all participants and sponsors for coming to a tournament that supports an important cause and for showing their passion and commitment in helping humanity.

Today's event brought together corporate and civic leaders, entrepreneurs, families and colleagues, who enjoyed a day of golf while demonstrating their support to end global poverty. Following the tournament, an awards ceremony and luncheon were held featuring keynote speaker Melvin Everson, Georgia State Representative who conveyed a heartfelt message to golfers. As a Baptist pastor he emphasized that it is everyone's responsibility to reach out and learn about people of different cultures and backgrounds. He noted that the Foundation demonstrates how working together can make a tremendous impact on saving

*An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network*

and improving lives of the poor around the world. Other distinguished guests included Mike Beaudreau, Gwinnett County Commissioner; John Davidson, Chief of Lilburn Police; Jerry Dean Weber, Reverend and President of Brookwood Cluster Foundation; and Jerry Oberholtzer, Mayor of Snellville.

The Foundation invests in people to help impoverished communities and families seize the opportunity to move toward greater choice and voice in order to improve their lives. By promoting quality education, improving health care and placing tools for economic empowerment into the hands of people, the Foundation helps them build the skills necessary to lead self-sufficient, healthy and dignified lives.

Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A., established in 1981, is a private, non-denominational, non-profit international development organization committed to the struggle against hunger, disease and illiteracy. The Foundation works to address the root causes of poverty by sharing innovative solutions and by supporting over 100 programs in health, education, rural development, civil society and the environment in 18 countries in East Africa and South and Central Asia. Using community-based approaches to meet basic human needs, the Foundation builds the capacity of community and non-governmental organizations to have a lasting impact on reducing poverty.

The Foundation 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. His Highness the Aga Khan is the Founder and Chairman of the Board of Aga Khan Foundation and 49<sup>th</sup> hereditary Imam of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims. 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 of society.

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