



## AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **HOUSTON GOLFERS RAISE \$130,000 TO HELP END GLOBAL POVERTY AT THE HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Houston, Texas, May 19, 2008** – Today at Sweetwater Country Club 170 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 \$130,000 was raised at today's charity event. In addition, representatives from Pepsi Co. who participated in the tournament donated \$65,000 to the Foundation's flagship program, Partnership Walk.

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 opportunity to create broader awareness about the role that community-based international development projects play in promoting peace and global security. Since its launch in 2007, Partnership Golf tournaments have been held in major cities around the U.S. raising \$665,000 to date with over 1,500 golfers and sponsors participating. Throughout 2008 tournaments take place in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, 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 a day of golf including John F. Healy, District Attorney for Fort Bend County, while demonstrating their support to end global poverty. Following the tournament, an awards ceremony and dinner were held featuring keynote speaker Chester Pitts of the Houston Texans who emphasized the need to end global poverty. Naushad Kermally, Chairman for Southwest Region AKF USA Volunteer Team, highlighted the work of Aga Khan Foundation and explained how its programs help people in the developing world meet their daily challenges and make a tremendous impact in reducing conditions of poverty, improving access to quality education and health care, and creating opportunities for improving income. Ron Trevino, morning anchor for Channel 11 KHOU, emceed the event. A major highlight was the helicopter ball drop that created a lot of excitement and raised over \$3,000.

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.

*An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network*

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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.

**For further information, please contact:**

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