



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

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**Birmingham Golfers Raise \$64,000 to Help End Global Poverty
at the Partnerships*InAction* Golf Tournament**

Birmingham, Alabama – October 21, 2008 – Today at the Riverchase Country Club, 72 golfers took a swing at ending global poverty at the annual Partnerships*InAction* Golf Tournament. Partnerships*InAction* 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 \$64,000 was raised at today's charity event.

With over half of the world's population surviving on less than \$2 per day, golfers participating at the 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 Partnerships*InAction* 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.

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 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.

While enjoying a day out on the green with friends and colleagues, Partnerships*InAction* Golf offers Americans an opportunity to create broader awareness about the role that grassroots development projects play in promoting peace and strengthening democracy. Since its launch in 2007, Partnerships*InAction* Golf tournaments have been held in major cities around the U.S. raising nearly \$1 million with over 1,900 golfers and sponsors participating. Throughout 2008 tournaments take place in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, San Antonio, Seattle and other major U.S. cities. Visit www.partnershipgolf.org for further information.

The Partnerships*InAction* Golf Tournament in Birmingham was a grand affair, held on a beautiful fall day. The Riverchase Country Club offered first-class amenities to the golfers and guests. The tournament featured varied contests that excited and engaged golfers throughout the day – ranging from contests such as Closest to the Pin, Putting Contest, Straight Drive and Hole-in-One. The tournament was followed by a banquet lunch and awards ceremony. Georgia State Representative Melvin Everson; Dr. Joy Brown, Principal of Bumpus Middle School; and Dr. Don Hulin, Principal of Hoover High School each addressed the crowd in speeches that highlighted the work of Aga Khan Foundation. The tournament was followed by an awards banquet and live auction.

Partnerships*InAction* Golf is inspired by the tremendous success of [Partnership Walk](#) – an annual event to raise awareness and funds to help people lift themselves out of poverty, now in its 14th year in the U.S. Both Partnership Golf and Walk are Partnerships*InAction* initiatives give individuals an opportunity to actively take part in advancing human dignity and peace around the globe through volunteerism, awareness-raising and contributions.

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An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network

Partnerships*InAction* represent AKF USA's growing portfolio of programs including Partnership Golf and Tennis Tournaments, Softball Classic, corporate and professional networking events, film screenings, essay and art competitions, education activities, among others. Since 1995, Partnerships*InAction* events have attracted over 250,000 participants and raised \$29 million nationwide. Partnerships*InAction*, an initiative of Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. and its volunteers in communities across America, involve 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.

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), 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 49th 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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