News

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Two John Hancock Financial Network Offices Merge to Expand Markets in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Western Massachusetts, and Westchester County, NY

~Combined Firm's New Name is Independence Financial Partners~

BOSTON, MA, September 10, 2008—The Rocky Hill, Connecticut, and Warwick, Rhode Island, offices of John Hancock Financial Network (JHFN)* recently joined forces to extend their successful growth throughout Southern New England and into New York State, announced Peter Gordon, President of JHFN.

With over 100 years of experience and a strong leadership team, the new organization, named Independence Financial Partners, is poised for growth. The combined enterprise, which brings together specialists in investments, long term care, retirement planning, and employee benefit markets, will offer more resources, allowing financial representatives to better position their businesses by serving the broader needs of their clients and communities.

According to Brian Heapps, Executive Vice President of Sales and Business Development for JHFN, Independence Financial Partners will be one of the largest in JHFN's national network of independent career firms with 70 financial representatives and over $1.2 billion in assets under management. "This merger creates an even stronger financial services organization resulting in a higher level of service to help meet the unique financial needs of each client."

Independence Financial Partners will be led by the strong management team of Richard Beaulieu, Jr, CLU, ChFC and Kevin Beaulieu, ChFC, Co-Managing Partners. Richard Beaulieu, of East Greenwich, RI, began his career in financial services in 1986 after graduating from the University of Rhode Island. He joined John Hancock Financial Network in Rhode Island in 1990. Kevin Beaulieu, of Warwick, has 15 years of experience in financial services, serves as a board member of the Rhode Island Society of Financial Services Professionals and is a graduate of Boston College. Richard Affenito, CLU, CLTC, has more than 30 years of financial services and management experience and joined John Hancock Financial Network in 1997. A resident of Cromwell, CT, he is the Managing Director of the Connecticut office.

About John Hancock Financial Network

John Hancock Financial Network (JHFN) is a leader with the stability and scale to offer an innovative business model that gives entrepreneurial financial professionals the power to effectively build unique businesses, based on their own vision and market opportunity. JHFN is a national network of independent career firms with over 1,800 financial professionals across the U.S. For more information on John Hancock Financial Network and its national network of independent career firms, visit www.jhnetwork.com.

About John Hancock Financial and Manulife Financial Corporation

John Hancock Financial is a unit of Manulife Financial Corporation (the Company), a leading Canadian-based financial services group serving millions of customers in 19 countries and territories worldwide. Operating as Manulife Financial in Canada and in most of Asia, and primarily as John Hancock in the United States, the Company offers clients a diverse range of financial protection products and wealth management services through its extensive network of employees, agents and distribution partners. Funds under management by Manulife Financial and its subsidiaries were Cdn$400 billion (US$393 billion) as at June 30, 2008.

Manulife Financial Corporation trades as 'MFC' on the TSX, NYSE and PSE, and under '0945' on the SEHK. Manulife Financial can be found on the Internet at www.manulife.com.

The John Hancock unit, through its insurance companies, comprises one of the largest life insurers in the United States. John Hancock offers a broad range of financial products and services, including life insurance, fixed and variable annuities, mutual funds, 401(k) plans, long term care insurance, college savings, and other forms of business insurance. Additional information about John Hancock may be found at www.johnhancock.com.