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John Hancock Funds Launches New Disciplined Value Fund
Firm builds out core value offerings with adoption of four-star fund from Robeco Boston Partners

BOSTON, January 12, 2009 – John Hancock Funds has completed the adoption of the Robeco Boston Partners Large Cap Value Fund and has launched it as the newly established John Hancock Disciplined Value Fund (JVLAX).

“Fund adoptions have been a key element in our strategy as we’ve expanded our product line at John Hancock Funds in recent years, and will continue to be important for us going forward. We’re pleased to launch Disciplined Value, a core value fund with broad sector representation, and a consistent top quartile performer across all standardized timeframes. Disciplined Value offers advisors and investors an alternative to the more concentrated approach of the John Hancock Classic Value Fund,” said Keith F. Hartstein, President and CEO.

“In much the same way, we have balanced our core fund offerings on the growth side as well,” Mr. Hartstein continued. “Last April we added the John Hancock Rainier Growth Fund (RGROX), a four-star large cap growth fund that is a broad-based alternative to our other funds, including the more focused John Hancock US Global Leaders Growth (USGLX). Now, our shareholders have more choices among the growth and value anchors of a portfolio, through our exclusive partnerships with pre-eminent institutional investment managers such as Rainier Investments and our newest partner, Robeco Boston Partners.”

"We are delighted to partner with John Hancock Funds to deliver our time-proven investment strategy to the shareholders of the Disciplined Value Fund," said Mark Donovan, chair of the Robeco Boston Partners Equity Strategy Committee and the fund's lead portfolio manager. "We are dedicated value investors, sticking to our process of choosing stocks of fundamentally good businesses that are undervalued and poised for recovery. John Hancock offers a very strong and experienced distribution network that complements our focus as an investment organization."

The John Hancock Disciplined Value Fund seeks to provide long-term growth of capital primarily through investment in equity securities. Current income is a secondary objective. The Fund pursues its objectives by investing, under normal circumstances, at least 80 percent of its net assets in a diversified portfolio consisting primarily of equity securities of issuers with a market capitalization of \$1 billion or greater that are identified by Robeco Boston Partners as having value characteristics.

The Fund's portfolio will be managed on a day-to-day basis by Robeco Boston Partners. Mr. Donovan, CFA, one of the Boston Partners' founders, has been a portfolio manager on the Boston Partners' Fund since inception in 1997 and David J. Pyle, CFA, has been a portfolio manager since 2005.

About Robeco Boston Partners

Robeco Boston Partners, a value equities specialist, is part of Robeco Investment Management, Inc. (www.robecoinvest.com), the U.S. asset management arm of Rotterdam-based global fund manager Robeco Group. Robeco Investment Management is comprised of three divisions: Robeco Boston Partners, Robeco-Sage and Robeco Weiss, Peck & Greer. Products include U.S. equity, fund of hedge funds and alternatives. Additionally, the firm offers global and international equity, including emerging markets, and fixed income products through its European affiliates, including Sustainable Asset Management Group ("SAM"), a global leader in sustainability investing.

About John Hancock Funds

The Boston-based mutual fund business unit of John Hancock Financial, John Hancock Funds manages more than \$47.9 billion in open-end funds, closed-end funds, private accounts, retirement plans and related party assets for individual and institutional investors at September 30, 2008. John Hancock Funds are distributed by John Hancock Funds, LLC, member FINRA | SIPC. For more information, please visit www.jhfunds.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\$385 billion (US\$364 billion) as at September 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](#), [fixed products](#), [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.