



**NEWS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**JOHN HANCOCK CLOSED-END FUNDS  
DECLARE QUARTERLY DISTRIBUTIONS**

**BOSTON, MA (September 1, 2011)** – The four John Hancock closed-end funds listed below declared their quarterly distributions today as follows:

Declaration Date: September 1, 2011  
Ex Date: September 8, 2011  
Record Date: September 12, 2011  
Payment Date: September 30, 2011

| <b>Ticker</b> | <b>Fund Name</b>                             | <b>Amount</b> | <b>Change From Previous Quarter</b> | <b>Market Price as of 8/31/2011</b> | <b>Annualized Current Distribution Rate at Market</b> |
|---------------|--|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| HTY           | Tax-Advantaged Global Shareholder Yield Fund | \$0.3600      | -                                   | \$12.22                             | 11.78%  |
| JHI           | Investors Trust                              | \$0.5081      | \$0.0117                            | \$22.04                             | 9.22%   |
| JHS           | Income Securities Trust                      | \$0.2896      | \$0.0147                            | \$15.09                             | 7.68%   |
| BTO*          | Bank and Thrift Opportunity Fund             | \$0.2191**    | -\$0.0193                           | \$14.05                             | 6.24%   |

\*Bank and Thrift Opportunity Fund declared its quarterly distribution pursuant to the Fund’s managed distribution plan (the “BTO Plan”). Under the BTO Plan, the Fund makes quarterly distributions of an amount equal to 1.25% of the Fund’s net asset value (“NAV”), based upon an annual rate of 5% as of each measuring date. The amount of each quarterly distribution is determined based on the NAV of the Fund at the close of the New York Stock Exchange on the last business day of the month ending two months prior to each quarterly declaration date.

\*\*This distribution amount is based on the Fund’s NAV of \$17.53 as of July 29, 2011, the Fund’s quarterly measuring date.

Distributions under the BTO Plan may consist of net investment income, net realized long-term capital gains, net realized short-term capital gains and, to the extent necessary, return of capital. However, the BTO Plan intends to fund each distribution, to the extent possible, in a tax-advantaged manner through the realization of long-term capital gains where the distribution amount exceeds net investment income. The Fund will seek to realize capital gains for this purpose in a manner which the Adviser and Subadviser believe is consistent with prudent portfolio management and the investment objective, policies and guidelines of the Fund. The

Fund may also make additional distributions (i) for purposes of avoiding federal income tax on the Fund of investment company taxable income and net capital gain, if any, not included in such regular distributions and (ii) for purposes of avoiding federal excise tax of ordinary income and capital gain net income, if any, not included in such regular quarterly distributions.

A portion of a Fund's current distribution may include sources other than net investment income, including a return of capital. Investors should understand that a return of capital is not a distribution from income or gains of a Fund. As required under the Investment Company Act of 1940, a notice with the estimated components of the distribution will be mailed to shareholders at the time of payment if it does not consist solely of net investment income. At this time, one or more of the Funds anticipates that the notice accompanying the current distribution will include an estimate of return of capital. Such notice will also be posted to the Funds' website at [www.jhfunds.com](http://www.jhfunds.com). The notice should not be used to prepare tax returns as the estimates indicated in the notice may differ from the ultimate federal income tax characterization of distributions. After the end of each calendar year, investors will be sent a Form 1099-DIV informing them how to report distributions received during that year for federal income tax purposes.

*Statements in this press release that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements as defined by the United States securities laws. You should exercise caution in interpreting and relying on forward-looking statements because they are subject to uncertainties and other factors which are, in some cases, beyond the Fund's control and could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.*

*An investor should consider a Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing.*

### **About John Hancock Funds**

The Boston-based mutual fund business unit of John Hancock Financial, John Hancock Funds, manages more than \$71.6 billion in open-end funds, closed-end funds, private accounts, retirement plans and related party assets for individual and institutional investors at June 30, 2011.

### **About John Hancock Financial and Manulife Financial Corporation**

John Hancock Financial is a unit of Manulife Financial Corporation, a leading Canadian-based financial services group serving millions of customers in 22 countries and territories worldwide. Operating as Manulife Financial in Canada and in most of Asia, and primarily as John Hancock in the United States, Manulife Financial Corporation 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\$481 billion (US\$498 billion) at June 30, 2011.

Manulife Financial Corporation trades as 'MFC' on the TSX, NYSE and PSE, and under '945' on the SEHK. Manulife Financial can be found on the Internet at [www.manulife.com](http://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](http://www.johnhancock.com).

