



Media Contact: Jay Aronowitz
(617) 663-2702

NEWS

Investor Contact: (800) 843-0090

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**JOHN HANCOCK CLOSED-END FUNDS
ANNOUNCE ANNUAL SHAREHOLDER MEETING DATE**

BOSTON, MA (August 1, 2012) – John Hancock Funds is pleased to announce that ten of its closed-end funds, John Hancock Bank and Thrift Opportunity Fund (NYSE: BTO), John Hancock Hedged Equity & Income Fund (NYSE: HEQ), John Hancock Income Securities Trust (NYSE: JHS), John Hancock Investors Trust (NYSE: JHI), John Hancock Preferred Income Fund (NYSE: HPI), John Hancock Preferred Income Fund II (NYSE: HPF), John Hancock Preferred Income Fund III (NYSE: HPS), John Hancock Premium Dividend Fund (NYSE: PDT), John Hancock Tax-Advantaged Dividend Income Fund (NYSE: HTD), and John Hancock Tax-Advantaged Global Shareholder Yield Fund (NYSE: HTY) will hold a Joint Annual Meeting of Shareholders (“Annual Meeting”) on November 9, 2012 at 2:00 p.m., Eastern Time, at the offices of the Funds, 601 Congress Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02210.

Shareholders of record of each Fund as of the close of business on September 6, 2012 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting and at any adjournment thereof. The notice for the Annual Meeting will be mailed to shareholders on or about September 25, 2012. At the Annual Meeting, shareholders of the Funds will be asked to elect the Funds’ Trustees.

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.

About John Hancock Funds

The Boston-based mutual fund business unit of John Hancock Financial, John Hancock Funds, manages more than \$74.5 billion in open-end funds, closed-end funds, private accounts, retirement plans and related party assets for individual and institutional investors at March 31, 2012.

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\$512 billion (US\$512 billion) at March 31, 2012.

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.

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.