



**NEWS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND  
ANNOUNCES RESULTS FROM SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

**BOSTON, MA (January 18, 2013)** – John Hancock Financial Opportunities Fund, formerly known as John Hancock Bank and Thrift Opportunity Fund (NYSE: BTO) (the “Fund”), a John Hancock Closed-End Fund, announced today that shareholders of the Fund approved the proposals presented for shareholder approval at the special meeting of shareholders held today.

At their special meeting, shareholders approved amending the Fund’s fundamental investment restriction to permit the Fund to engage in leverage by borrowing, and approved eliminating the fundamental investment restriction on pledging, mortgaging or hypothecating assets. In addition, shareholders of the Fund approved the proposals to amend the Fund’s advisory and subadvisory agreements by reflecting the inclusion of borrowing for investment purposes and other financial leverage in the calculation of the advisory and subadvisory fees, and by adding a fee breakpoint to the advisory agreement.

*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 \$77.9 billion in open-end funds, closed-end funds, private accounts, retirement plans and related party assets for individual and institutional investors at September 30, 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\$515 billion (US\$523 billion) at September 30, 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](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](#), [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).