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**NEWS**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND RELEASES EARNINGS DATA**

**BOSTON, MA (April 17, 2013)** – The John Hancock Hedged Equity & Income Fund announced earnings<sup>1</sup> for the three months ended March 31, 2013. The same data for the comparable three month period ended March 31, 2012 is also available below.

		Three Months Ended 3/31/2013					
Ticker	Fund Name	Current Fiscal Year End	Net Investment Income	Per Common Share	NAV	Total Managed Assets	Total Net Assets
HEQ	Hedged Equity & Income Fund	12/31*	\$392,451	\$0.029	\$18.57	\$254,975,676	\$254,975,676

  

		Three Months Ended 3/31/2012					
Ticker	Fund Name	Current Fiscal Year End	Net Investment Income	Per Common Share	NAV	Total Managed Assets	Total Net Assets
HEQ	Hedged Equity & Income Fund	12/31*	\$391,595	\$0.027	\$18.39	\$263,972,901	\$263,972,901

\*As announced on December 12, 2012, the Fund's fiscal year-end was changed from October 31 to December 31.

<sup>1</sup>Earnings refer to net investment income, which is comprised of the Funds' interest and dividend income, less expenses.

Amounts distributed by the Fund may vary from the earnings shown above and will be announced in separate press releases. Up-to-date distribution rate information is available on John Hancock Funds' web site at [www.jhfunds.com](http://www.jhfunds.com) by clicking on "Closed-End Funds" under "Funds & Performance" tab.

*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 \$79.8 billion in open-end funds, closed-end funds, college savings assets, retirement plans and related party assets for individual and institutional investors at December 31, 2012.

**About John Hancock Financial and Manulife Financial**

John Hancock Financial is a division of Manulife Financial, a leading Canada-based financial services group with principal operations in Asia, Canada and the United States. Operating as Manulife Financial in

Canada and 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 C\$532 billion (US\$535 billion) as at December 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 [manulife.com](http://manulife.com).

The John Hancock unit, through its insurance companies, comprises one of the largest life insurers in the United States. John Hancock offers and administers 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 [johnhancock.com](http://johnhancock.com).