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**Acorn Financial Services in Roseland, NJ Receives National Award for Excellence
from John Hancock Financial Network**

BOSTON, MA, May 13, 2009—Acorn Financial Services, a leading wealth management firm in Roseland, NJ, was recognized with the John Hancock Financial Network’s (JHFN) highest honor, the *Trophy Award* for 2008. Led by Joseph J. Oakes, IV, Managing Partner, Acorn Financial Services also received this award in 2006 for its outstanding performance.

“This achievement by the team at Acorn Financial Services is a reflection of the highest level of professionalism, respect, integrity and real value that they deliver to clients every day,” said Peter Gordon, President of John Hancock Financial Network. “To that end, and especially given the difficult financial environment, Joe has led everyone to go above and beyond to serve their clients.”

As the 2008 winner of the *Trophy Award*, Oakes carries on a family tradition of excellence that was started by Joseph Oakes, III when he founded Acorn Financial Services in 1985. Oakes IV assumed the position of Managing Partner from his father in 2005. Since entering the financial services business in 1994, Oakes IV worked to become one of John Hancock Financial Network’s leading representatives as he helped to build the firm and has received numerous awards and honor from John Hancock as well as industry organizations.

“I am deeply honored to accept the prestigious *Trophy Award* on behalf of Acorn Financial Services,” said Oakes, IV. “Our firm’s culture is built upon the belief that few other businesses give you the ability to leave such a profound footprint on a person’s life in a truly positive way. Success and personal satisfaction come from loving what you do, delivering on your promises, and being dedicated to clients for life.”

About Acorn Financial Services

Acorn Financial Services is a dynamic financial services and wealth management organization that prides itself on its enduring relationships, high code of ethics, and commitment to excellence in serving the needs of its clients. The firm has offices in Roseland, Paramus and Morristown, NJ and Yardley, PA.

About John Hancock Financial Network

John Hancock Financial Network is a national network of independent firms with over 1,800 financial professionals across the U.S. A leader with the stability and scale to offer an innovative business model, John Hancock Financial Network gives entrepreneurial financial professionals the power to effectively build unique businesses, based on their own vision and market opportunity. For more information on John Hancock Financial Network and its national network of independent firms, visit www.jhnetwork.com.

About John Hancock and Manulife Financial

John Hancock 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 \$405.3 billion (U.S. \$321.7 billion) as at March 31, 2009. 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.

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