

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



TIAA-CREF Life Insurance Company and M Financial Group Form Life Insurance Distribution Relationship

Companies Share Long-Term Focus and Emphasis on Strength and Stability

CHARLOTTE, NC and PORTLAND, OR, October 25, 2011 – TIAA-CREF Life Insurance Company (“TIAA-CREF Life”) and M Financial Group (“M Financial”) today announced an exclusive agreement to offer TIAA-CREF Life’s life insurance products to M Financial’s Member Firms and their clients.

Through this relationship, TIAA-CREF Life will gain access to M Financial’s ultra high-net worth client base, significantly expanding its distribution network. TIAA-CREF Life will also develop a series of proprietary life insurance products that will be sold exclusively through M Financial and its affiliated licensed producers. In addition, TIAA-CREF Life will provide a variety of dedicated resources to support M Financial’s Member Firms, including sales and marketing support, underwriting and policyholder service.

“We’re excited to bring the strength and stability of TIAA-CREF Life and our insurance experience to help address the sophisticated financial planning needs of M Financial Member Firm clients,” said Tony Garcia, President and CEO of TIAA-CREF Life Insurance Company. “The core values that permeate M Financial -- including their passion for client advocacy, service differentiation, and superior product performance -- present our organization with an opportunity to not only partner with an industry leader but grow in a manner consistent with TIAA-CREF’s heritage.”

Fred Jonske, president and CEO of M Financial, said: “It speaks volumes that TIAA-CREF Life chose to form an exclusive distribution relationship with M Financial. TIAA-CREF Life’s reputation and financial strength, client focus and understanding of the expectations of our Member Firms make them an ideal partner for us. We are well positioned to maximize the value of this relationship for the clients we serve together. This is a unique and exciting development for the M Community.”

About TIAA-CREF Life

TIAA-CREF Life is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association (TIAA), part of the TIAA-CREF companies. For its stability, sound investments, claims-paying ability and overall financial strength, Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association (TIAA) and

its affiliate TIAA-CREF Life Insurance Company¹ hold the highest ratings currently awarded from all four leading independent insurance industry ratings agencies to insurance groups in the United States.² TIAA-CREF is a Fortune 100 financial services organization that is the leading retirement provider for people who work in the academic, research, medical and cultural fields.

About M Financial Group

With more than 130 Member Firms in 36 states and Canada, M Financial Group (www.mfin.com) is one of the nation's leading financial services design and distribution companies. Since 1978, M Financial's network of independent insurance, investment, and executive benefit firms has served the needs of ultra-affluent individuals, corporate executives, successful entrepreneurs, and Fortune 1000 companies.

For further information:

Jeannine DeFoe
TIAA-CREF
(212) 913-3501
jdefoe@tiaa-cref.org

Jacob Boston
M Financial Group
(503) 414-7296
jacob.boston@mfin.com

TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, and Teachers Personal Investors Services, Inc., members FINRA, distribute securities products. Life Insurance is issued by TIAA-CREF Life Insurance Company, 730 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

C1663

¹ Insurance and annuity products are available through TIAA, TIAA-CREF Life Insurance Company and CREF, each of which is responsible for its own financial obligation.

² TIAA-CREF Life Insurance Company (TIAA-CREF Life) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association (TIAA). TIAA-CREF Life holds the following ratings as a result of its relationship with TIAA. A.M. Best (A++ as of 2/11), Fitch (AAA as of 6/11), Moody's Investors Service (Aaa as of 6/11) and Standard & Poor's (AA+ as of 8/11). Per S&P criteria, the downgrade of US long-term government debt limits the highest rating of U.S. insurers to AA+ (the second highest rating available). There is no guarantee that current ratings will be maintained. Ratings represent a company's ability to meet policyholders' obligations and claims and do not apply to variable annuities, mutual funds or any other product or service not fully backed by TIAA-CREF Life's claims-paying ability.