

*September 16, 2008*

## Northwestern Mutual Remains in Strong Financial Position

Northwestern Mutual is well-positioned to preserve its financial strength despite ongoing market volatility in 2008, although no area of investments can be completely isolated from volatile current economic conditions. Asset diversification, active portfolio management, and a long-term investment perspective for the general account contribute to the company's ability to weather market turbulence while selectively taking advantage of opportunities these markets present.

The portfolio's stable outlook is reflected in Northwestern Mutual's best possible insurance financial strength ratings from Fitch, Standard & Poor's, Moody's, and A.M. Best Company. In its November 2007 report, for example, Standard & Poor's noted that the company's "substantial surplus position and its long-term liability profile (predominantly participating whole-life policies) enable it to absorb short term volatility while maximizing long-term returns for the benefit of policyholders."

Please feel free to call me to discuss specific questions you may have about Northwestern Mutual's financial strength.