



News Release

Hartford Plaza • Hartford, CT 06115

Date: January 5, 2004

For Release: Upon Receipt

Contact: Media
Kristin Flyntz
860/843-4191
kristin.flyntz@hartfordlife.com

David Lafrennie
860/843-6154
david.lafrennie@hartfordlife.com

Investors
Hans Miller
860/547-2751
hmillier@thehartford.com

Mike Lesperance
860/547-6781
michael.lesperance@thehartford.com

The Hartford Completes CNA Group Benefits Transaction *Company Solidifies Its Position as a Market Leader in Group Benefits*

HARTFORD, Conn. – The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. (NYSE: HIG) today announced it has completed the purchase of CNA Financial Corporation's group life and accident, and short-term and long-term disability businesses for approximately \$500 million in cash. The transaction closed on December 31, 2003.

This acquisition solidifies The Hartford's position as a leading provider of group benefits through its subsidiary, Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company.

CNA's group operations reported revenues of \$900 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003, for its group benefits businesses, excluding long term care and specialty medical.

The Hartford is one of the nation's largest insurance and financial services companies. As of December 31, 2002, The Hartford had revenues of \$16.4 billion. The company is a leading provider of investment products, life insurance and group benefits; automobile and homeowners products; and business property and casualty insurance.

The Hartford's Internet address is www.thehartford.com.

###

Some of the statements in this release may be considered forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. We caution investors that these forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance, and actual results may differ materially. Investors should consider the important risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ. These important risks and uncertainties include those discussed in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, our 2002 Annual Report on Form 10-K and the other filings we make with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We assume no obligation to update this release, which speaks as of the date issued.