



NEWS RELEASE

THE GREATER FREEPORT PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCES METLIFE'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO FURTHER BOLSTER THE REGION'S GROWTH

*Insurance Provider Focused on Growing Job Opportunities
And Further Supporting Freeport Community*

Freeport, Illinois, June 22, 2018 -- The Greater Freeport Partnership, which is designed to promote economic development, tourism, Main Street, and business services to grow the Freeport and Stephenson County region, announced today that MetLife, Inc., has contributed \$15,000 to the Northwest Illinois Development Alliance (NIDA) for the Greater Freeport Partnership. This contribution is in addition to MetLife's annual financial investments to the Northwest Illinois Development Alliance as a significant business investor for the past 10 years.

The Greater Freeport Partnership formed in June 2018 when the boards of directors of the Northwest Illinois Development Alliance (NIDA), Freeport/Stephenson County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Freeport Downtown Development Foundation (FDDF) and Freeport Area Chamber of Commerce voted to create a new organization that brought together the four organizations and four boards of directors into one organization with one mission, one board and one voice.

"We're so glad that MetLife is 'All In' for Freeport," said Gary Quinn, chairman of the Greater Freeport Partnership. "In addition to the company's long-time role as a business investor and lead financial contributor to NIDA, MetLife [Auto & Home] has reopened its operations in Freeport and is actively hiring local talent. MetLife's support is the most recent example of the private sector's investment in and support of the region."

MetLife Auto & Home®, one of the country's leading property and casualty insurance providers, returned to the region in December 2017, reopening its Freeport office. In the first few months, more than 100 new team members were hired, exceeding the initial plan of adding 150 jobs over two years and bringing today's total to 300 employees. MetLife Auto & Home estimates it will bring on nearly 100 more jobs by 2019, providing new employment opportunities in the local region.

"Freeport has long been an important location for MetLife Auto & Home and we are thrilled about our return to its passionate community," said Darla Finchum, Vice President & Chief Claim Officer, MetLife Auto & Home. "We have been very fortunate to not only hire talented individuals locally, but to also work closely with organizations, including The Greater Freeport Partnership, to reach the common goal of building an economically thriving region."

--more--



About MetLife and MetLife Auto & Home®--

MetLife, Inc. (NYSE: MET), through its subsidiaries and affiliates ("MetLife"), is one of the world's leading financial services companies, providing insurance, annuities, employee benefits, and asset management to help its individual and institutional customers navigate their changing worlds. Founded in 1868, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company has operations in more than 40 countries and holds leading market positions in the United States, Japan, Latin America, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. MetLife Auto & Home is one of the nation's leading personal lines insurance groups, insuring nearly 4 million autos and homes, and is affiliated with MetLife, Inc. For more information, visit www.metlife.com.

About The Greater Freeport Partnership--

The Greater Freeport Partnership promotes economic development, tourism, Main Street and business services to grow the Freeport and Stephenson County region. Formed when the boards of directors of Northwest Illinois Development Alliance (NIDA), Freeport/Stephenson County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Freeport Downtown Development Foundation (FDDF) and Freeport Area Chamber of Commerce voted to create a new organization, the Greater Freeport Partnership brings together the four organizations and four boards of directors into one organization with one mission, one board and one voice. Collaborate Freeport and the All In Freeport brand are part of the Greater Freeport Partnership. For more information, visit <https://greaterfreeport.com>.

For more information, contact: Chuck Colley at ccolley@a5inc.com or John Harris at jharris@a5inc.com.