

MassMutual Offers Free Life Insurance to Working Parents in Florida

by PR-NewsWire

Application session to be held at and in conjunction with the Easter Seals of Southwest Florida on Saturday, November 4

SARASOTA, Fla., Oct. 30 /PRNewswire/ -- Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual) is bringing the company's LifeBridge(SM)Free Life Insurance Program to the Sarasota, Florida area.

MassMutual's LifeBridge is a national philanthropic program in which the company issues 10-year term life insurance policies to eligible working parents to help pay for the cost of their children's education in the event they die. Through LifeBridge, \$50,000 life insurance policies are issued to a trust on the life of qualifying parents or legal guardians to help pay for the education of their eligible children who -- in the event of a parent's death during the policy's term -- may not be able to afford to complete their schooling. All premiums are paid entirely by MassMutual, with no fees ever for qualified parents or their children.

Bob Mitchell, insurance and financial services professional for MassMutual who is offering the program locally, is holding a LifeBridge application session at the Easter Seals facility located at 350 Braden Ave., Sarasota, FL, this Saturday, November 4, from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Appointments are preferred; walk-ins are welcome. To schedule an appointment, call the 2-1-1 line at United Way. Cell phone users must dial 941-308-4357.

"We are extremely excited to bring LifeBridge to Sarasota and Manatee Counties," says Mitchell. "Experience tells us that some of the people who believe most in the protection that life insurance offers are often the ones who can least afford it. Working with Easter Seals of Southwest Florida to help bring this important program to the community is a pleasure. They continue to go above and beyond expectations for the community they know and love."

Mary Hitchcock, president and CEO, of Easter Seals added, "We want to help ensure that access to educational opportunities exists for children of working families. There is absolutely no cost to the insured for a policy under the LifeBridge program."

MassMutual has provided more than 5,700 10-year term life insurance policies since launching the LifeBridge program in 2002, representing more than \$285 million in free life insurance coverage.

To be eligible to apply for a term life insurance policy under the LifeBridge program, applicants must be:

- * Between the ages of 19-42;
- * A permanent, legal U.S. resident;
- * The parent or legal guardian of one or more dependent children under the age of 18;

- * Currently employed -- either full- or part-time -- and have a family income between \$10,000 and \$40,000 on their most recent income tax return;
- * The only family member who has applied for the LifeBridge program; and
- * In good health, as determined by MassMutual's underwriting guidelines.

Each LifeBridge policy has a 10-year policy term. If the insured parent or legal guardian dies during that time, the \$50,000 life insurance benefit will be applied solely toward the education of the children. The money will be paid to a trust administered by The MassMutual Trust Company, FSB on behalf of the children. The trust will pay the educational expenses of the children directly to the educational institution they attend.

Various types of schools qualify, including, but not limited to, pre-school, private school, vocational school, community college, universities, art and music schools or graduate schools. Some of the educational expenses covered include books, tuition, and room and board.

MassMutual Financial Group companies -- with more than \$395 billion in assets under management as of December 31, 2005 -- provide life insurance, annuities, disability income insurance, long-term care insurance, retirement planning products, structured settlement annuities, trust services, money management, and other financial products and services.

The MassMutual Financial Group is a marketing name for Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual) and its affiliates, which include: Oppenheimer Funds, Inc.; Babson Capital Management LLC; Baring Asset Management Limited; Cornerstone Real Estate Advisers LLC; MML Investors Services, Inc.; The MassMutual Trust Company, FSB; MML Bay State Life Insurance Company; C.M. Life Insurance Company; and MassMutual International LLC.

MassMutual is on the Internet at <http://www.massmutual.com> .

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