



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**METLIFE WILL ESTABLISH ITS U.S. RETAIL BUSINESS HEADQUARTERS
IN BALLANTYNE CORPORATE PARK**

CHARLOTTE (April 9, 2013) –Bissell and MetLife, Inc., a leading global life insurance and employee benefits company, are pleased to announce that MetLife will establish its U.S. Retail business headquarters in Ballantyne Corporate Park. MetLife will occupy the entire Gragg Building as well as a portion of the Woodward Building, located at the northwest corner of Ballantyne Commons Parkway and North Community House Road.

“We selected Ballantyne Corporate Park because of its impressive facilities and ideal location,” said Eric Steigerwalt, executive vice president and head of MetLife’s U.S. Retail business. “Ballantyne differentiated itself as a true corporate community, and we know our employees will be attracted to the area’s amenities and the great quality of life that Charlotte provides.”

“We are honored that MetLife has chosen Ballantyne Corporate Park as an integral part of its operations,” said Smoky Bissell, chairman of the Bissell organization. “Over the years we have remained confident in Charlotte’s ability to attract companies of the stature of MetLife, and we are truly excited that MetLife shares our confidence in Ballantyne and Charlotte.”

The 10-story Gragg and Woodward Buildings, built to LEED®-Gold certified standards, offer a convenient location with structured parking and unparalleled views of the golf course and surrounding community. Striking in design, the Class A buildings exude international modernism and share a beautiful center courtyard feature. MetLife will lease approximately 340,000 square feet of space in the Gragg and Woodward Buildings. These facilities will accommodate the more than 1,300 positions being established in Charlotte, as well as the employees consolidating from its current space in Charlotte.

Barry Fabyan, senior vice president and manager of office leasing services, and Kimberly Kendall, senior associate, handled negotiations on behalf of owner and landlord, Bissell; Brian Brtalik, senior vice president in Cushman & Wakefield | Thalheimer’s Charlotte office, and David Susoreny with Cushman & Wakefield’s CIS team represented MetLife.

About MetLife

MetLife, Inc. is a leading global provider of insurance, annuities and employee benefit programs, serving 90 million customers. Through its subsidiaries and affiliates, MetLife holds leading market positions in the United States, Japan, Latin America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. For more information, visit www.metlife.com.

Ballantyne Corporate Park

Ballantyne Corporate Park, a 535-acre master-planned Class A office and business community in Charlotte, North Carolina, includes four million square feet of office space and nearly 600 hotel rooms as well as restaurants, medical and retail amenities. Ballantyne Corporate Park was awarded the 2010 International Office Park of the Year by the Building Owners and Managers Association, recognizing quality in office buildings and excellence in building management. Zoned for more than six million square feet of office space, Ballantyne Corporate Park is positioned in the heart of Charlotte's largest concentration of educated and experienced labor. Current corporate clients include SPX Corporation, Bank of America, Snyder's-Lance, Premier, Liberty Mutual, LendingTree, Polypore, Babcock & Wilcox, Camstar, ESPN and the Carlisle Companies. For more information, visit www.ballantynecorporate.com.

Bissell

The Bissell Companies, Inc. serves as the headquarters for a full range of real estate and related operating companies located in Charlotte, North Carolina. Founded in 1964, Bissell is widely recognized as the principal developer of Ballantyne and SouthPark – two of the Southeast's largest and most successful mixed use communities. Bissell specializes in commercial development, office leasing, real estate investments, property management, hotels, golf, spa and media. Dedicated to delivering unmatched experiences to its customers, Bissell upholds the highest standards by comparing its efforts to the Top 5% of comparable service experiences in the world. For more information, please contact Bissell at (704) 248-2000 or visit www.bissellcompanies.com.

Cushman & Wakefield | Thalhimer

Thalhimer was founded in 1913 and currently has offices in Richmond, Newport News, Virginia Beach, Fredericksburg, Roanoke, Lynchburg, VA; Charlotte, Raleigh, NC; Charleston, Greenville, SC. The company has over 125 broker professionals and employs over 300 associates with a property portfolio of over 50 million leasable square feet and management of over 21,200,000 square feet. In 2012 Thalhimer completed over 2,100 transactions with a transactional volume in excess of \$1.15 billion. Thalhimer is the region's leading provider of comprehensive commercial real estate services. The firm offers comprehensive commercial real estate services including corporate services, investment sales, tenant representation, construction management, project management, asset management, and the sale and leasing of office, industrial and retail properties.

Cushman & Wakefield

Cushman & Wakefield is the world's largest privately-held commercial real estate services firm. The company advises and represents clients on all aspects of property occupancy and investment, and has established a preeminent position in the world's major markets, as evidenced by its frequent involvement in many of the most significant property leases, sales and assignments. Founded in 1917 it has 243 offices in 60 countries and more than 14,000 employees. It offers a complete range of services for all property types, fully-integrated on a global basis, including leasing, sales and acquisitions, debt and equity financing, investment banking, corporate services, property management, facilities management, project management, consulting and appraisal. The firm

has more than \$5.5 billion in assets under management through its wholly-owned subsidiary Cushman & Wakefield Investors. A recognized leader in local and global real estate research, the firm publishes its market information and studies online at www.cushmanwakefield.com/knowledge.

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