

For Immediate Release

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Ratel Provides Private Equity Investment For Senior Housing Development

Tiburon, Calif. -- October 17, 2006 - Ratel Investments, a real estate private equity firm, today announced an equity investment in a joint venture project to fund the construction of a new senior independent and assisted living facility in Brentwood, California. Ratel is co-investing in Brentwood Park along with Northwestern Mutual Life, the nation's largest direct provider of individual life insurance.

When completed, the 3-story building will offer 120 one and two bedroom units, a community living room, full service dining room, bistro, entertainment and activity areas, a library, movie theater, beauty salon and swimming pool. Construction broke ground in August 2006 and is expected to be completed in 2008.

About [Ratel Investments](http://www.ratelinvestments.com) (www.ratelinvestments.com)

Ratel Investments is a real estate co-investment firm that acquires, improves and manages multi-family and industrial real estate on behalf of high net worth individuals, family trusts and institutions. Ratel invests in real estate assets that range in price from \$5 to \$30 million. The firm purchases properties outright or in conjunction with strong venture partners. Ratel's real estate portfolio encompasses an equity interest in approximately 1,000 apartment units and approximately 500,000 square feet of light industrial space with a combined market value of approximately \$250,000,000.

About [Northwestern Mutual Life](http://www.nmfm.com) (www.nmfm.com)

Northwestern Mutual Life is based in Milwaukee, WI, and is the nation's largest direct provider of individual life insurance. The company, its subsidiaries and affiliates are also providers of annuities, mutual funds, long-term care insurance, disability income insurance and employee benefit services to the group employee and executive markets.



