



For Release: Immediately
Contact: Randy Buckwalter rbuckwalter@harleysvillegroup.com
Phone: 215.256.5288 (office) 267.718.3766 (cell)

**HARLEYSVILLE GROUP INC. DECLARES
80TH CONSECUTIVE QUARTERLY DIVIDEND**

HARLEYSVILLE, PA—June 6, 2006—The Board of Directors of Harleysville Group Inc. (NASDAQ: HGIC) today declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of \$0.175 per share, payable June 30, 2006 to shareholders of record on June 15, 2006. This marks the 80th consecutive quarter Harleysville Group has paid a dividend since the company went public in 1986.

Harleysville Insurance is a leading regional provider of insurance products and services for small and mid-sized businesses, as well as for individuals, and ranks among the top 60 U.S. property/casualty insurance groups based on net written premiums. Harleysville Mutual Insurance Company owns 55 percent of Harleysville Group Inc. (NASDAQ: HGIC), a publicly traded holding company for nine regional property/casualty insurance companies collectively rated A- (Excellent) by A.M. Best Company. Harleysville Group has paid a dividend every quarter since the company went public in 1986, and was one of 3 percent of public companies recently recognized with a 2006 Mergent Dividend Achiever Award for its long-term history of dividend increases. Harleysville Insurance—which distributes its products exclusively through independent insurance agencies and reflects that commitment to its agency force by being a Trusted Choice® company partner—currently operates in 32 eastern and midwestern states. Further information can be found on the company's Web site at www.harleysvillegroup.com.

To obtain investor materials, including the company's latest annual report, Form 10-K and other corporate announcements, contact the investor relations department (215.256.5151 or investorrelations@harleysvillegroup.com) or visit the company's Web site.

#####

#06-17
06/06/06p

