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Big Lots launches Lots2Give contest

Twenty-six schools will share \$80,000 in cash prizes

COLUMBUS, OH (May 13, 2008) — Big Lots (NYSE:BIG) announced that video entries are being accepted through June 21 for schools that want to compete for thousands of dollars in cash prizes. The national contest is part of the Lots2Give program launched by Big Lots to support community-based efforts that enhance student learning.

Big Lots is calling for parents, teachers, administrators, and community members to create and enter a short video (90 seconds or less) and write a brief paragraph explaining why their favorite school deserves the \$10,000 grand prize. One hundred finalists will be selected by a panel of judges, and the public may vote on their favorite video at www.lots2give.com from June 30 to July 22 to determine the 26 winners. The cash awards include a \$10,000 grand prize, three \$5,000 first prizes, and twenty-two \$2,500 second prizes.

"Lots2Give is all about rewarding schools that need it and deserve it the most," said CEO Steve Fishman. "Big Lots wants to give back to local schools in need, and we think the people in the communities we serve can best tell us who to help."

As America's leading broadline closeout retailer, Big Lots is recognized by many educators as a favorite source for affordable school supplies. The company offers special promotions and savings events for teachers throughout the year and hosts a "Teachers Lounge" section on its Web site.

"We think the Lots2Give video contest is another way for us to support education in a meaningful and fun way," noted Rob Claxton, Senior Vice President of Marketing. "The videos can be heartwarming or humorous. We're looking forward to receiving many creative entries and providing local support that will help students succeed."

For a complete description of Lots2Give video criteria and rules, and to submit an entry, visit www.lots2give.com. Online submissions will be accepted until June 21 at 11:59 p.m. EDT. No purchase or entry fee is required.

About Big Lots

Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Big Lots (NYSE: BIG) is a Fortune 500 company with more than 1,300 stores in 47 states. As the nation's largest broadline closeout retailer, Big Lots offers consumers a wide range of bargain-priced merchandise, including brand-name closeouts, seasonal products, consumables, furniture, housewares, toys, and gifts. For more information, visit www.biglots.com.