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Big Lots Brightens Holidays for Local Families in Need
Retailer donates \$65,000 in cash and toys to NBC4 Firefighters 4 Kids

COLUMBUS, OH (December 11, 2008) — Big Lots (NYSE:BIG), the nation's largest broadline closeout retailer, will again brighten the holidays for thousands of local children in need as it supports the NBC4 Firefighters 4 Kids Toy Drive.

Big Lots will cap off its giving campaign with a check presentation on Saturday, December 13 during the NBC4 Firefighters 4 Kids Toy Drive at the NBC4 Studios, 3165 Olentangy River Rd. in northwest Columbus.

"So many kids need to believe in the magic, especially this year," said CEO Steve Fishman. "Our long partnership with Firefighters 4 Kids enables us to bring joy and hope to struggling families across Central Ohio."

Big Lots has been a loyal corporate sponsor of the NBC4 Firefighters 4 Kids for the past 7 years, contributing approximately \$600,000 in cash, gift cards, and toys. This year Big Lots donated 3 full semi-trailers of toys for children of all ages. In addition, the company will present a \$20,000 check and \$15,000 in gift cards during the drive on Saturday morning.

"Over the years, Big Lots has helped ensure that thousands of deserving children could experience the thrill of unwrapping a special gift during the holidays," said Rob Claxton, Senior Vice President of Marketing. "Nothing makes our work seem more worthwhile than being part of this special cause. It truly makes a difference in people's lives."

Company officials will present the check at 9:55 a.m. on December 13.

About Big Lots, Inc.

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. The Company also sells merchandise via the internet at www.biglots.com and through its wholesale operations which are conducted through **BIG LOTS WHOLESALE, CONSOLIDATED INTERNATIONAL**, and **WISCONSIN TOY** and www.biglotswholesale.com.