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***Extra* Star Mario Lopez and Big Lots Team Up to Fight Hunger in Central Ohio**

COLUMBUS, OH (June 29, 2009) – Fans of TV personality Mario Lopez, host of NBC's *Extra*, will have the opportunity to meet the celebrity and help Big Lots combat hunger in Central Ohio. Lopez will make a special appearance at the Big Lots Polaris Towne Center, 1245 Polaris Parkway, on July 3 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

The public is invited to meet Mario and bring one or more non-perishable food items to donate to the Mid-Ohio Food Bank.

"More Central Ohioans are facing hunger than ever before," said Rob Claxton, Senior VP of Marketing. "Food banks receive the most support during the holidays. But fighting hunger is a year-round effort in these tough economic times. We hope the public will join us for a great cause and a fun event."

Big Lots is a long-time supporter of the Mid-Ohio Food Bank, which is now providing food for nearly 50,000 meals a day in the greater Columbus community. In addition to in-kind gifts, the company also contributed to the food bank's current capital campaign to purchase and renovate a larger warehouse facility.

"So many people are in need, particularly right now," noted Hal Wilson, Big Lots' Senior VP of Distribution and Transportation and Mid-Ohio Food Bank board member. "We are proud to join the community in the ongoing effort of providing hunger relief."

Big Lots (NYSE: BIG) is partnering with NBC 4 to sponsor this in-store event and food drive. Lopez will also appear on NBC 4 at 5 p.m. and will be the star attraction at the Red, White and Boom Independence Day Parade.

Autographs will be available at the Big Lots event on a first-come, first-served basis.

Lopez, who danced his way into America's heart on the hit program *Dancing With the Stars*, is the host of the long-running daily syndicated entertainment magazine program, *Extra*. In addition, he is host of the hit reality-competition series *Randy Jackson Presents America's Best Dance Crew*, now in its second season on MTV. He recently starred on Broadway in the revival of *A Chorus Line* and is a recurring commentator on *HBO Boxing*.

Lopez began his career as the younger brother on the 1984 television series *A.K.A. Pablo*. He became well known to television audiences through his roles on NBC's *Saved by the Bell*, and USA Network's *Pacific Blue*.

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