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Big Lots Kicks Off 11th Year as National Toys for Tots Sponsor

COLUMBUS, OH (Oct. 2, 2006) — Big Lots (NYSE:BIG), the nation's largest broadline closeout retailer, will again brighten the holidays as it helps the U.S. Marines and Santa deliver toys to needy children across the country.

"Giving back to the communities we serve is one of our core values," said CEO Steve Fishman. "Our long partnership with Toys for Tots enables us to bring joy and hope to thousands of families across America."

Big Lots has been a loyal corporate sponsor of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign since 1994, conducting toy collection drives at local stores. The company also provides special discounted pricing on new toys to the Toys for Tots Foundation through its Granted Wishes Program.

The Big Lots Toys for Tots drive, along with other donations, helped the Foundation distribute over 20 million new toys to more than 8 million needy youngsters last year.

"Over the years, Big Lots has helped us ensure that millions of deserving children could experience the thrill of unwrapping a special gift during the holidays," said Major Bill Grein, USMC (Ret.), vice president of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. "Their contributions and leadership over the past 11 years have made a positive difference in lives of many families."

From October 1 through December 24, Big Lots customers and associates can drop their gift of a new toy into the Toys for Tots donation barrels at many of the 1,400 Big Lots locations nationwide. Although Big Lots has a non-solicitation policy at all of its stores, the company is proud to continue its tradition of community service through strategic alliances with national non-profit organizations such as Toys for Tots and The Salvation Army.

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About Toys for Tots

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program began in 1947 when Major William L. (Bill) Hendricks, USMCR and a handful of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children on Christmas Eve. Today, Toys for Tots is the Marine Corps' premier community action program and one of the nation's flagship Christmas charitable causes.

About Big Lots, Inc.

Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Big Lots (NYSE: BIG) is a Fortune 500 company with over 1,400 stores nationwide. Five regional distribution centers ranging in size from 1 million to 3 million square feet and two furniture distribution centers provide the company's stores with brand-name products from more than 3,000 manufacturers. Big Lots offers consumers a unique shopping experience and wide range of bargain-priced merchandise, including brand-name closeouts, one-of-a-kind deals, seasonal products, consumables, furniture, housewares, toys, and gifts. For more information, visit www.biglots.com.