



Big Lots Rolls Out New National Image

Closeout Leader Refurbishes 38 Texas Area Mac Frugal's & Big Lots Stores

COLUMBUS, OHIO (April 8, 2002) – Attention bargain hunters: A new and improved Big Lots with brighter, cleaner stores and even better service will be unveiled in Texas on April 17. The nation's largest broadline closeout retailer is refurbishing 16 Mac Frugal's stores and 22 Big Lots stores, which will emerge reflecting the company's fresh image.

But while the name will change, one thing consumers have enjoyed for close to 20 years will remain the same: great merchandise priced 20 to 40 percent below discount stores – many times up to 70 percent below conventional retail prices.

"Our decision over the past year to change the names of our stores and our image across the country is about building the Big Lots brand nationally," said Michael J. Potter, chairman and CEO. "By focusing on brand name closeout retailing, we're building on our solid foundation as the leading broadline closeout retailer."

Value-conscious consumers are increasingly turning to closeout stores, where prices on brand name merchandise are deeply discounted. Big Lots welcomed this trend by launching an initiative to move to a single brand last May. In 2001, 205 company stores including Odd Lots, Pic 'N' Save, and Mac Frugal's were converted to the Big Lots brand. This year an additional 228 stores will be converted, including 60 stores already named Big Lots that will be taking on the company's new identity and image.

Big Lots also unveiled a redesigned logo featuring a bold exclamation point that symbolizes the fun and *WOW!* of closeout shopping.

"We want to make closeout stores more appealing to a broader audience," said Potter. "Whether we have a good economy or a challenging one, we believe all shoppers should take advantage of the closeout experience – where they can often find a \$10 brand name item for as little as \$3. We are confident our loyal and new Mac Frugal's and Big Lots customers will appreciate the changes at these stores."

Big Lots enthusiasts shop the stores frequently for daily consumables as well as exceptional deals for which the company has become known. Some of those deals in the past have included bass boats, golf carts, computers, slot machines, and high-quality furniture. "It's advantageous to shop our stores frequently," Potter noted. "By

aggressively pursuing deals on quality merchandise at great prices, customers never know what hidden treasures they'll find from week to week."

With over 1,300 stores in 45 states, Big Lots continues to grow and dominate the closeout category. Through its size, expertise in finding brand name closeouts, and international buying clout, Big Lots offers tremendous savings to customers on brand name consumables, seasonal products, housewares, and toys, and gifts. Most closeout merchandise is acquired either from overstocked manufacturers, package changes, or discontinued and trial-basis products.

Grand reopening activities are planned throughout the week at each location.

Mac Frugal's stores being converted include:

Dallas / Fort Worth Area:

2550 Redbird Lane in the Square 67 Shopping Center
620 Wynnewood Village in the Wynnewood Village Shopping Center
2415 North Haskell in the Cityplace Market
2249 South Loop 288 in the Pic N Save Plaza
1201 West Airport Freeway in the Euless Town Centre
2865 Valley View Lane in the Pic N Save Plaza
4812 South Freeway in the K-Mart Shopping Center
825 West Centerville Road
950 West Airport Freeway
2325 South Stemmons Freeway in the Vista Ridge Village
6300 Rufe Snow Drive in the North Park Plaza
2903 West 15th Street in the Prarie Creek Village
1322 South Plano Road in the Bickingham Place
7750 I-30 in White Settlement

Tyler-Longview Area:

1905 West Loop 281 in the Park Place Mall
4400 South Broadway in The French Quarter

Big Lots stores being converted include:

Dallas / Fort Worth Area:

117 North Greenville Avenue in Cottonwood Creek Village
2110 South Cooper Street in Ashbury Plaza
715 West Lamar
2853 Central Drive in the Central Plaza
3621 North Josy Lane in Rosemeade Plaza
1615 West Henderson Road
1955 West 7th Avenue
6500 Skillman in Merriman Shopping Center
719 North Hampton Road Winn-Dixie Shopping Center
3848 Alta Mesa Blvd. in Wedgewood Square Shopping Center
6908 Camp Bowie Blvd.
1406 West Walnut in Garland Towne Center
6408 Wesley Street in the Gibson Building

3185 Denton Highway in Haltom Plaza Shopping Center
1374 West Main Street in Old Orchard Village
105 South Central Expressway in Westgate Shopping Center
3737 Gus Thomasson
3024 Clarksville Street in the Park Place Shopping Center
1418 West Moore in the Town West Plaza
401-B Highway 77 in the University Plaza

Sherman

2222 Texoma Parkway in the Westwood Village

Shreveport

96 Oaklawn Village in the Oaklawn Village Shopping Center

Tyler

1421 South Beckham Avenue in the K-Mart Shopping Center

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Big Lots, Inc. (www.biglots.com) is the nation's largest broadline closeout retailer with annual revenues exceeding \$3 billion. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Big Lots operates more than 1,300 retail stores serving 46 states. Four regional distribution centers throughout the country, ranging in size from 1 million to 3 million square feet, provide the company's stores with brand name products from more than 3,000 manufacturers. Big Lots offers merchandise at 20 to 40 percent below most discount retailers and up to 70 percent below conventional retailers. Founded in 1967, the company employs more than 40,000 associates across the U.S. By creating excitement with brand name closeouts and bargains through a unique shopping experience, Big Lots meets the needs of customers by providing an assortment of merchandise including consumables, seasonal products, furniture, housewares, toys, and gifts. Big Lots is currently traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **BLI**.