



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oakstone Academy Receives \$20,000 from Big Lots

Contribution will support Central Ohio school uniquely focused on autism.

COLUMBUS, OH (July 8, 2010) — Big Lots (NYSE: BIG), the nation's largest broadline closeout retailer, today announced it will donate \$20,000 to Oakstone Academy, a full inclusion model school where students with autism learn in classrooms alongside children without disabilities.

Oakstone Academy was founded a decade ago by Dr. Rebecca Morrison who wanted to learn what would happen when children with autism spectrum disorder were taught in classrooms with their typically developing peers. The results of this approach have been praised by parents and experts alike. Today Oakstone Academy serves more than 500 children in preschool through 12th grade at multiple buildings throughout the greater Columbus area.

"It is truly a one-of-a-kind school," said Morrison. "We are currently operating at full capacity, and sadly we have to turn away many, many students. We are thankful to Big Lots for the generous donation they have made so that our mission can continue to grow and thrive."

Autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that inhibits a person's ability to communicate and develop social relationships, and is often accompanied by behavioral challenges. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, children on the autism spectrum typically show difficulties in verbal and nonverbal communication, social interaction, and leisure or play activities.

Approximately half of Oakstone's current enrollment are students who fall somewhere on the autism spectrum. The balance of the student population is made up of siblings, children of staff members, or come from families who want a more affordable private-school atmosphere where their children can learn and mature.

"At Big Lots, we strongly believe in giving back to the communities we serve," said CEO Steve Fishman. "We are proud to be able to support Oakstone Academy's work in helping children with autism and their families."

About Big Lots, Inc.

Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Big Lots (NYSE: BIG) is a Fortune 500 company with more than 1,370 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 through **BIG LOTS WHOLESALE**, **CONSOLIDATED INTERNATIONAL**, and **WISCONSIN TOY**, and www.biglotswholesale.com.