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Big Lots Associates Raise Money, Lose Weight

COLUMBUS, OH (June 2, 2011) – Columbus-based Big Lots associates have lost a collective 1,034 pounds over the last three months as part of a weight-loss challenge that also doubled as a fundraiser. Big Lots pledged \$10 to fight hunger in Central Ohio for every pound lost during its Big Loser Challenge. To recognize the weight-loss achievement, company officials will present a check for more than \$10,000 to the Mid-Ohio Foodbank on June 7.

“Our purpose was two-fold,” said CEO Steve Fishman, who participated in the in the weight-loss challenge for charity. “We wanted to promote the health and well-being of our associates *and* our community.”

More than 120 associates at the company’s headquarters participated by counting calories, breaking bad food habits, stepping up their exercise, and encouraging each other throughout the three months.

“It’s really awesome to be part of something that is good for us and the community,” said Big Lots associate Candy Barney. “What other company would do this? Our loss has truly been someone else’s gain.”

Associates will celebrate during the Big Loser luncheon and check presentation on June 7. Top losers in the contest will also be announced at that time.

About Big Lots, Inc.

Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Big Lots (NYSE: BIG) is a Fortune 500 company with more than 1,400 stores in 48 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.