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Big and Littles Celebrate Big Time

Field Day and Silly Olympics Promote Big Brothers Big Sisters Week

July 7, 2011, Denver – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado (BBBSC), Denver’s oldest mentoring program, celebrates its annual Big Brothers Big Sisters Week from July 16th – July 23th. Starting with its **Annual Field Day** at one end and the **Silly Olympics** at the other, this weeklong series of entertaining events and activities is not just all fun and games. Big Brothers Big Sisters Week promotes community awareness about Big Brothers Big Sisters’ programs and the lasting positive impacts mentoring relationships have on children and their communities. The week also offers the program’s Bigs and Littles, the adults and young people matched through the BBBSC programs, a very special opportunity to share quality time together and with other mentoring pairs. Thanks to the week’s festivities everyone comes out a winner: the kids, the adults, BBBSC programs and the Denver community.

“As much fun as it is, Big Brothers Big Sisters Week is an important part of our work,” said Dave Stalls, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado’s President & CEO. According to Stalls, “This vital week tells the community about the quality mentoring services we provide to children and the ways they can become involved. As always, we owe a huge ‘thank you’ to our generous sponsors – the Lockton Companies and Allied Nationwide Insurance. Their dedicated employees play an indispensable role helping us host these fun and enriching activities, which promote and enhance our mentoring relationships. We really couldn’t do it without them.”

The week kicks off with the Second Annual Summer Field Day at 9 a.m. on Saturday July 16th at Denver’s Garland Park (located at the corner of N Cherry Creek Drive and Monaco) in SE Denver. Over **250** children, families, mentors and volunteers not only compete in traditional field day activities, but also discover ways to strengthen their relationships with each other and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Long-time BBBSC supporter, **Allied Nationwide Insurance (ANI)** is this year’s Summer Field Day Premier Sponsor. In addition to their generous financial support, numerous ANI employees will donate their Saturday to ensure the kids have a great time by helping run the day’s activities, including track and field events, water games and relay races.

“We support Big Brothers Big Sisters because we know what a difference their programs make in the lives of so many young people in our community,” said Paul VanDenBosch , ANI’s Regional VP, Rocky Mountain Region. “While we are obviously pleased to provide financial support, we are especially happy that so many of

our dedicated people help BBBSC, both as mentors and for special events like field day. We are always happy and honored to support the good work of Big Brothers Big Sisters."

Big Brothers Big Sisters Week concludes on the lush green soccer fields of Metropolitan State College with the **Tenth Annual Silly Olympics** on Saturday, July 23rd at 10 a.m. The biggest event of the year for the BBBSC Sports Buddies Program, a special mentoring program that connects male volunteers with boys in the community, the **Silly Olympics** combines healthy, but slightly whacky, competition, tons of fun and loads of laughter. Sponsored for the third year by **Lockton Companies**, the Silly Olympics features an obstacle course, water balloon toss and a variety of other fun games and crazy competitions. For nearly 300 children, families, and volunteers this will be a happy and memorable day. The **Lockton Companies** generously provides 25 employee volunteers to coordinate and manage the events and **Chipotle Mexican Grill** serves up a tasty lunch. The day's final awards ceremony will recognize the day's competition winners and this year's **Sports Buddies' Big Brother of the Year, Richard Zimmerman**. Richard was selected for his consistency and dedication to his Sports Buddy, Simon, with whom he has shared a special relationship for 5 full years.

For Steve Lockton, CEO of the Lockton Companies, the Silly Olympics are a great way for the company and its people to support the great work of Big Brothers Big Sisters. "While the Silly Olympics are tons of fun, they are really all about the serious business of supporting kids in the Denver community. We are thrilled to be able to support the good work of Big Brothers Big Sisters. It's why Lockton people love being involved and why we as a company keep coming back."

Big Brothers Big Sisters is the state's leading youth mentoring organization, helping children reach their full potential through professionally supported one-to-one volunteer mentoring relationships with measurable impact. Big Brothers Big Sisters has been serving Colorado youth since 1918. To learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters, to donate or to volunteer, please visit us on the web www.BigLittleColorado.org or call 303.433.6002.

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