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March 6, 2008

News Release

BIG LOTS AND MAP FURNITURE BANK PARTNER FOR FUNDRAISER

Nearly 700 guests will gather this Friday to support MAP Furniture Bank and celebrate the organization's tenth year serving central Ohio.

"Big Hearts for Empty Houses," presented by Big Lots, is the largest fundraiser of the year for MAP Furniture Bank. The fundraiser is planned and executed by the Big Lots team and all proceeds from the event benefit MAP Furniture Bank.

"We have a wonderful partnership with the Big Lots organization. They really go above and beyond to ensure this fundraiser is a success," said Jim Stein, president of MAP Furniture Bank.

The event raises nearly half of MAP Furniture Bank's annual operating budget. Each ticket, priced at \$200, provides a houseful of furniture to a local family in need.

In addition to support from Big Lots, many local and national businesses provide sponsorship for this event. A complete listing will be provided upon request.

MAP Furniture Bank was established in 1998 and offers free pickup for furniture donors in central Ohio. MAP redistributes the furniture to "*turn empty houses into homes*" for 3,600 local families annually.

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