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CAMP MAX STRAUS

Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Los Angeles

EXCELLENCE IN MENTORING

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WOMEN ON TOP AT L.A.'S PREMIER YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM

Los Angeles – For the first time in its 92-year history, Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Los Angeles (JBBBS) has honored its leading women for their extraordinary service and dedication to youth in our community. Lonnie Delshad, Leslie Kavanaugh and Hilary Ratner received top accolades yesterday by an audience of more than 300 people at JBBBS' Big Dreams luncheon, held at the Beverly Hills Hotel. From its first Big Sister match in 2003, JBBBS has steadily increased its impact on young women to 38 active matches today and counting. JBBBS is poised to expand its impact through mentoring Los Angeles' youth with leading women on its board, in management positions and as volunteers.

“We are honoring women that have helped transform our organization and impact youth in Los Angeles that are in desperate need for support to overcome educational, economic and sometimes psychological barriers,” said Margy Feldman, JBBBS' first female President and CEO.

Lonnie Delshad, recipient of the Community Impact Award, has had a lifelong commitment to education. A former teacher with LAUSD and Valley Cities JCC, Delshad has served on numerous youth and education boards as well as a number of other Beverly Hills charities. Married to Beverly Hills Mayor Jimmy Delsahd, the highest ranking Iranian-born American official in the U.S., Lonnie is an active community leader and a dedicated community activist.

Leslie Kavanaugh, recipient of the WOW Award (Wonderful and Outstanding Women), continues a legacy of leadership as a successful realtor with Sotheby's for over 25 years and a trailblazer in community service. Kavanaugh joined JBBBS' Board of Trustees ten years ago as only the third woman on a board of 72 men. She is the current chair of the Resource Development Committee and participates in almost every committee for JBBBS. Kavanaugh is also active on numerous other nonprofit boards in Los Angeles.

Hilary Ratner, recipient of JBBBS' first Big Sister of the Year Award, was the organization's first Big Sister-Little Sister match. Ratner is recognized for her leadership since her match began in February 2004 in the JBBBS program and for her eagerness to volunteer in many other aspects of JBBBS. Ratner works as a technical writer for The SCPIE Companies.

“It is remarkable how the few hours I spend with my Little Sister each month have boosted her self esteem and helped to strengthen her relationship with her friends and family,” said Hilary. “At the same time, though, I could say the same things about how she has affected me. I love being a Big Sister.”

****PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST****

Founded in 1915, Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Los Angeles specializes in mentoring children through its core matching program and school-based mentoring program. It is also home to Camp Max Straus, a residential camp in Glendale where almost 1,000 underserved, inner-city children annually attend summer camp or weekend Sports Buddies and Arts Buddies mentoring programs. The organization specializes in mentoring children through its wide network of volunteers and staff. Approximately 2,000 children benefit from the organization's programs and services annually. For more information or volunteering opportunities, visit www.jbbbsla.org.

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