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## JEWISH BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS HONOR PROMINENT WOMEN



Hilary Ratner, Lonnie Delshad, Margy Feldman and Leslie Kavanaugh. Photos credit: Express Service Productions

BEVERLY HILLS -- For the first time in its 92-year history, Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Los Angeles ("JBBBS") honored its leading women for their extraordinary service and dedication to youth in Los Angeles. Lonnie Delshad, Leslie Kavanaugh and Hilary Ratner received top accolades on last week before an audience of over 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," JBBBS President and CEO Margy Feldman said.

Lonnie Delshad, recipient of the Community Impact Award, has had a life-long 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 (Wonderful and Outstanding Women) Award, 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 10 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 non-profit 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," Hilary said. "At the same time, though, I could say the same things about how she has affected me. I love being a Big Sister."

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.