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MEDIA CONTACT - Sara Balough
Office: 972.573.2375 / Cell: 817.925.9296
sbalough@bbbstx.org

PERFECT PRE-PARTY SETS BIG EXPECTATIONS FOR MAIN EVENT

DALLAS, TX – (September 30, 2009) - Don and Ana Carty, Honorary Chairs of the **Big Black Tie Ball: An Evening of Masterpieces**, hosted a perfect party in their Preston Hollow home last night. The pre-gala event set grand expectations for this year's Big Black Tie Ball benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas on November 14.

Guests, which included Bob and Myrna Schlegel, Norm and Kelly Green, Tommy Hicks, Jr., Casey Coffman, Herb Weitzman, Donna Arp, and many more enjoyed the Carty's beautiful back yard while they learned of the great need for mentors in North Texas. Big Brothers Big Sisters of America CEO Karen Mathis was also in from Philadelphia to attend the party.

The featured artist for this year's gala, University Park's Brenda Bogart, was also at the event along with her commissioned piece, *Little Picassos*, which will be auctioned off at the gala. As well, the violin stylings of Azalea, a Little Sister in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, gave a hint of the incredible caliber of talent possessed by the Little Brothers and Little Sisters that will be featured at the Big Black Tie Ball.

Several of the Big Black Tie Ball ambassadors which include Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bracken, Mr. and Mrs. Denny Carreker, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Fagan, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Guyton, Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Kilgust, Mr. Steve Mauldin & Ms. Allison Lehman, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Owens, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Slone, and Mr. Gene Yarbrough were in attendance as well.

This Big Black Tie Ball: *An Evening of Masterpieces* hopes to inspire you through the people that inspire us everyday, our children. The funds raised this evening will benefit the more than 3,000 works of art currently waiting for a Big Brother or Big Sister. For each \$1,000 raised, one child will be removed from our waiting list and matched to a mentor who will help them realize the masterpiece in each of them. For more information and to purchase tickets go to www.bbbstx.org.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is a donor-based organization that places caring adults in the lives of children in one-to-one mentoring relationships. Through the positive impact of those friendships, children with a Big Brother or Big Sister are more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to begin using drugs, begin using alcohol engage in negative behavior. Contact us at 888.887.BIGS or www.bbbstx.org.

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