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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**District Attorney's Office Named Big Brothers Big Sisters
Dallas County Region's Community Partner of the Year**

(DALLAS – March 29, 2008) – Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) has selected the Dallas County District Attorney's (DA) Office as its Dallas County Region's Community Partner of the Year. The DA's Office currently has 30 prosecutors, investigators, support staff and in some cases their spouses, serving as mentors to children through BBBS. Volunteers from the DA's Office are matched to children in the Dallas Independent School District who are then mentored through school-based or community-based programs. The DA's Office also supports the organization's Bowl for Kids' Sake fundraising events.

"We are truly honored to be selected as the Big Brothers Big Sisters Dallas County Region's Community Partner of the Year and we look forward to a continued, successful relationship with this incredible organization," said Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins. "While we are thrilled about this recognition, our commitment to Big Brothers Big Sisters is simply motivated by the opportunities to provide at-risk children positive role models and expose them to different experiences, with the ultimate goal of keeping them on the right path in life and out of the criminal justice system."

The partnership between the Dallas County District Attorney's Office and BBBS concentrates on supporting their Amachi Texas program, a mentoring initiative that serves children who have at least one family member who is incarcerated, on parole or on probation. Of the 150,000 at-risk youth in the metro area, 70,000, have one or more parents who have gone through the criminal justice system. The purpose of Amachi Texas is to break the cycle of incarceration in families.

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“Our history of partnership with the Dallas County's District Attorney's Office has reached a new level through the support of Craig Watkins and his team,” said BBBS CEO Charles Pierson. “We are pleased to honor their commitment to the children of North Texas.”

Founded in 1927, BBBS (www.bbbsnt.org) is a volunteer organization that provides children support, guidance, friendship and fun by matching them to adult role models. The agency's mission is to enrich, encourage and empower children to reach their highest potential through safe, positive one-to-one mentoring relationships. BBBS serves this mission through a professional staff that carefully works with both the volunteers and the children to ensure that the experience of mentoring is dynamic, fulfilling, memorable and fun for both the child and the volunteer.

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