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## **NEWS RELEASE – “BIGS” RECEIVE STATEWIDE RECOGNITION**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Florida recently received the 2006 Leading Light Award presented by SUNSPRA, the Sunshine State School Public Relations Association. The recognition took place December 1<sup>st</sup> in Tampa, during the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Joint Conference of various Florida education associations including the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA), the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS), and SUNSPRA.

According to SUNSPRA President Joe Landon, the Leading Light Award recognizes people and organizations for providing outstanding support to public education in Florida. The Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization was recognized for its one-on-one mentoring program that is in place in Florida’s schools. The program is focused on reading. According to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Florida, they administer quality, locally customized programs made possible by the support of the Florida Department of Education (DOE) and The Volunteer Florida Foundation.

In 2003, the first SUNSPRA Leading Light Award was presented to Florida’s First Lady Columba Bush for her support of public education. In 2004, the award was given to Al Weiss, president of Worldwide Operations for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, for leadership provided during the Orange County School District sales tax referendum campaign. In 2005, Comcast Cablevision was recognized for support given daily to schools in the Florida counties served by Comcast.