



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **YMCA of Abilene and Big Brothers Big Sisters... a perfect match!**

Big Brothers Big Sisters operates under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. As the nation's largest mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"), ages 6 through 18.

The YMCA is the nation's leading nonprofit committed to strengthening community. The organization is dedicated to building healthy, confident, connected and secure adults and families. Their impact is felt every day when an individual makes a healthy choice, when a mentor inspires a child and when neighbors come together for the common good.

The YMCA of Abilene understands the value of providing a safe environment where adults, teens and children can spend time together engaging in physical activity and building mentoring relationships.

***Effective February 17, 2016, the YMCA of Abilene is offering a one year membership at no charge to Bigs and Littles who use the facilities together. They can participate in group exercise activities, swim, play court sports and more... all at no charge! Furthermore, BBBS "Littles" can apply for team sports and camp scholarships.***

***The YMCA will also support the BBBS mission by informing their families of the benefits of mentoring through hosting BBBS interest meetings, presentations, and tables at YMCA events.***

YMCA Executive Director Brandi Underwood explains, "The YMCA of Abilene is always looking for new opportunities to serve our community through programs and services that focus on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. There was so much excitement at the Y when the opportunity for a partnership with Big Brothers and Big Sisters was brought up. It makes a lot of sense to work together because we already have so much in common, and we have the unique ability to enhance their already successful program through our programs and services."

For more information, please contact:

Brandi Underwood  
YMCA of Abilene  
[bunderwood@abileneymca.org](mailto:bunderwood@abileneymca.org)  
325-695-3400

or

Jamie Bearden  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
[jbearden@bbbstx.org](mailto:jbearden@bbbstx.org)  
325-660-7158