



CONTACT: Brian Rossiter  
(215) 351-2066  
[brossiter@whyy.org](mailto:brossiter@whyy.org)

### WHYY FM DOCUMENTARY ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY WINS 2009 GRACIE AWARD

PHILADELPHIA, February 24, 2009 — WHYY FM's **Maiken Scott** and **Elisabeth Perez-Luna** are winners of the 2009 Gracie Award in the Outstanding Documentary—Long Format category for the radio program *Growing Up Big*. Perez-Luna served as executive producer and editor for the documentary, hosted and produced by Scott. **Geeta Simons** served as associate producer, and **John Sheehan** completed post-production.

First broadcast on September 29, 2008, *Growing Up Big* discusses the medical and psychological effects of childhood obesity. The program explores how eating habits have changed and how advertising affects children. *Growing Up Big* also shows the outcome of sedentary lifestyles and what children, parents, communities, schools and researchers are doing to move the needle back on the scale.

In producing *Growing Up Big*, Scott interviewed families participating in the Healthy Way program at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and visited the ChesPenn After-School wellness program at Springfield Hospital's Healthplex Sports Club and the Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative.

*Growing Up Big* is part of the *Little Bites, Big Steps* outreach programming, created by WHYY's Children's Service and designed to target parents and educators to teach young children healthy eating habits. **Susan Pogliinco** is the executive director of the Children's Service, and **Jennifer Wheeler**, manager.

The Gracie Awards are presented each year by American Women in Radio and Television, a national nonprofit organization that seeks to "advance the impact of women in the electronic media and allied fields." Scott and Perez-Luna won a Gracie Award in 2007 for their documentary *Childhood Lost and Found*, which focused on young cancer patients. For that story, the producers also worked with WHYY's Children's Service. **Terry Gross**, host of *Fresh Air*, received a Gracie Award in 1999 in the category of National Network Radio Personality.

*Growing Up Big* may be streamed at <http://www.whyy.org/91FM/growingupbig.html>. The following link contains more information about *Little Bites, Big Steps*: <http://www.whyy.org/childrensservice/lbbs.html>.

###