From Andrew to Irma

Dear Friends,

Just after the 25th Anniversary of Hurricane Andrew, here came Hurricane Irma. For much of our community, Hurricane Irma is no longer top of mind. The winds came, the waters rose, the storm passed, and then the clean-up began. Our power was restored (finally?!). Piles of debris are being removed and the trees are sprouting new leaves. Now many of our neighborhoods and our lives are returning to normal.

At Branches however, we have settled into a ‘new normal’ of sorts in which we are back to normal operations while also serving needs that persist in the lives of those who are most vulnerable. In the communities in which we serve (particularly in South Dade), unemployment has beset so many families whose livelihoods are in the hospitality and agricultural industries.

Here is what Branches has done to date: Immediately after the hurricane and after cleaning up our sites, we opened up the Florida City facility to provide 3 meals a day, showers, ice, water and simply a place to rest for the community. Our facility had power so people came not just to eat but to stay cool and charge their cell phones. For five days after the storm, Branches was filled with people from all over the community. We provided activities for the children, and adults connected with one another. It was a beautiful testimony of why Branches exists in the first place. In fact, Branches in Florida City was born out of Hurricane Andrew.

In that first week after Irma, we received a visit from a CEO of a local foundation who was amazed to discover that ‘everyone was so happy at Branches.’ Indeed, Branches creates community where people are loved and supported and consequently are joyful despite the circumstances.

We are so grateful to be entrusted with generous resources from churches, foundations and corporate partners to ensure that people have food and emergency assistance while they get their lives back to normal. The Branches’ team has been working every day serving hundreds of people addressing their immediate needs and working toward long term solutions.

From Andrew to Irma, Branches continues to be a beacon of light and a place of hope for so many. Thank you for being part of the Branches community!

With Hope and Gratitude,

Brent McLaughlin
Executive Director

From the Desk of the Director

Mission Statement:
To serve, educate and inspire people through student, family and financial stability services in partnership with our communities.

Get Involved:
If you would like to know more about how to donate and/or volunteer, please contact us at:
305-442-8306
info@branchesfl.org
www.branchesfl.org

What’s Inside

- Summer Shade Camp - Page 2
- Donor Thank Yous - Pages 3-7
- Black Tie & Blue Jeans Benefit Dinner - Page 8
- Grow & Climb - Page 9
- Bash & Achieve - Page 10
- Thanksgiving Meal Delivery - Page 11

Branches students helping to prepare Post-Hurricane Irma food and baby care relief packages.
Branches Happenings

Summer Shade Camp = Fun, Learning & Youth Employment

Thanks to the generous support from our donors, the 2017 Branches’ Summer Shade Camp provided a safe, fun and caring environment for a record 406 children this summer! This 7 week-long day camp which takes place at each Branches site, allowed our children to practice math and reading through exciting lessons and enrichment activities. This helps prevent summer learning loss and ensures that all our students are ready for the next grade this school year. Of course our kids also had lots of fun, visiting places like Zoo Miami, Biscayne National Park, the Venetian Pool, Everglades Outpost, Miami Children’s Museum, Ninja Lounge, Kendall Ice Arena, bowling, the movies and more. Our youth were also able to enjoy some amazing guest speakers like Mr. Stan Van Gundy, Zaniac and others.

In addition, Branches is proud to have employed 37 of our youth this summer to serve as Summer Guides (camp counselors) to help lead the activities of summer programming. Branches’ staff and AmeriCorps members provided support, but this employment offered our guides a chance to build their resume, learn employable skills, practice leadership and earn some money.

Branches understands the value of hiring our youth. Our entire community must come together to support our youth and provide them with real opportunities to help them grow and achieve long-term success in life. Thank you to all the dedicated funders of our Climb youth program for believing in our ability to affect change, and most importantly, for believing in our kids.

The value of hiring our youth.

Thank you to all our generous donors for supporting Branches’ programs!

All donors from March 13, 2017 - September 17, 2017 are listed at www.branchesfl.org/news/newsletters

A special thank you goes out to our premiere supporters:

**Thank You, Branches Sponsors & Stakeholders!**

List includes contributions received by Branches from March 13, 2017 to September 17, 2017. If you sent a contribution during this period and do not see your name on the list, please contact us at (305) 442-8306 x1005.

### $20,000 and above

- **Bell, Trish & Dan**
- **Anthony R. Abraham Foundation**
- **Bell, Sandy & Rodney**
- **Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMC)**
- **Hector, Nancy T.**
- **Helen’s Hope Foundation**
- **Himan Brown Charitable Trust**
- **Internal Revenue Service**
- **Kelly Foundation**
- **Ocean Reef Community Foundation**
- **Rutherford, Shelley & Larry School Board of Miami-Dade County**
- **The Batchelor Foundation, Inc.**
- **The Children’s Trust of Miami-Dade**
- **The Kirk Foundation**
- **United Way Miami-Dade Grants**
- **Volunteer Florida**

### Between $10,000 and $19,999

- **Alliance for Strong Families and Communities**
- **Anonymous**
- **Bank of America Charitable Foundation**
- **BankUnited**
- **Barzynski, Elizabeth & David**
- **BB&T**
- **BankUnited**
- **Florida Blue**
- **HSBC Bank USA, N.A.**
- **Peacock Foundation, Inc.**
- **Protestant Foundation of the Ocean Reef Chapel**
- **Publix Super Markets, Inc.**
- **Regions Financial Corporation**
- **The Miami Foundation**
- **Wells Fargo**

### Between $5,000 and $9,999

- **Carnival Foundation**
- **City National Bank**
- **Fitzpatrick, Liz & Jonathan**
- **JP Morgan Chase Bank**
- **Kowalski, Kathleen & Robert**
- **Macy’s**
- **Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs**
- **SunTrust Foundation**
- **TD Charitable Foundation**
- **The Tonkinson Foundation**
- **Watkins, Jocelyn**

### Between $1,000 and $4,999

- **Armstrong, Kim & Daniel**
- **Aungst, Emily & Kristopher**
- **Baptist Health South Florida—South Miami Hospital**
- **Batchelor, Jonathan**
- **Benditte, Gabriele & Reinhard**
- **Bill Ussery Motors**
- **Bilzin Sumberg**
- **Branches UMC**
- **Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC**
- **Burdette, William R.**
- **Carpenter-Smith, Elena**
- **Cummins, Kary**
- **Ferrero, Leslie & Gregory**
- **First UMC Boca Raton**
- **First UMC Miami**
- **Florida International University**
- **Florida Power & Light**
- **Furniss-Roe, Tina & Robert**
- **Gerson, Preston, Robinson & Co.**
- **Goya Foods of Florida**
- **Haas, Martha**
- **Hanuszkievicz, Michelle & Juan P.**
- **Howard, Kathy & Scott**
- **Izarry-Lopez, Carmen Victoria**
- **Iszler, Elizabeth & Timothy**
- **Kahn, Laurie & Fabian**
- **Lawrence, David**
- **Mandarin UMC**
- **McLaughlin, Karen & Brent**
- **Memorial UMC**
- **Milledge, Sandy & Brother**
- **Morgan, Missy & James Elmore III**
- **Parker, Judith & Robin**
- **PDC Technologies**
- **Perez, Barbara & Deppman, Ed**
- **Pike, Isabelle & Russell**
- **Pinney, Audrey & Peter**
- **Prothro, Rebecca & Carleton**
- **Rogers, Nadine & Shaun**
- **Serrate, Beth**
- **Shear, Ryan**
- **Snow, Ruth & Richard**
- **South Florida Stucco**
- **Symes, Dustin**
- **Szaranko, Lincoln**
- **Team FootWorks**
- **Toral, Armando**
- **Torres, Kim & Raymundo**
- **Touching Miami With Love Ministries**
- **Tripp Scott PA**
- **Umbaugh, Glicer & Greg**
- **Van Romondt, Alexandra & Jean Paul**
- **Villaamil, Marielena A.**
- **Villaamil, TJ**
- **Ways to Work**
- **Zapletal, Laurie A.**

### Between $500 and $999

- **Barrinat, Tessie & Goldfarb, Alan**
- **Barzyk, Janine**
- **Bass, Hilarie**
- **BBV Compass Bank**
- **Berrios, Jose**
- **Burton, Linda**
- **Byrne, Michael**
- **Camenzuli, James**
- **Chester UMC**
- **Di Calvo, Al**
- **Dou, Jeannette & Remy**
- **Garrison, Pamela**
- **Getchell, Kenneth**
- **Gibraltar Private Bank & Trust**
- **Grove Tree Service**
- **Ho, Linda & William**
- **Hudson, Christina & Robert**
- **Karsen, Jack**
- **Kleber Family Charitable Trust**
- **Koch, Deborah**
- **Lan caster, Jessica & Joe**
- **Mandarin UMC Men**
- **Maxwell, Leslie**
- **MBF Healthcare Partners**
- **Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay**
- **Miller, Bronwyn & Udell, Maury**
- **Moore Stephens Lovelace CPAs**
- **Onsgard, Robert**
- **Pacific National Bank**
- **Poulos, Pamela**
- **Prasad, Pratibha**
- **Prichard, Sandra & Roland**
- **Ross, Sandra & Arturo**
- **Sanchez-Llorens, Migna**
- **Sanlando UMC**
- **Thornton, Channing D.**
- **Turkell, Jaret**
- **Watkins, Jim**
- **Wemens, Cynthia**
- **Zanghi, Lucille & Dow, James**

### Between $200 and $499

- **Ault, Cindy & Greg**
- **Bado, Carolyn & Jean-Pierre**
- **Bastian, Erwin**
- **Baurichter, Dalia & Anthony**

Continued on Page 4
Thank You, Branches Sponsors & Stakeholders!

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**Between $200 and $499,**
continued from Page 4

Beauchamp, Nathan
Betty Chapman & Dale Chapman
Webb
Bodin, Carrie & Amory
Bonner, Tom
Carol City UMC
Castilla, Ana
Charity Services Centers PA
Clark, Richard
Deppman, Darlene & Edward
Ebbert, Marlin
Eligon, Janille
First UMC Coral Gables
Foster, Jeanne
Foster-Morales, Dori
Ft. Pierce Haitian Mission
Gautier, Tami
Gonzalez, Cristina M.
Gonzalez, Karina & Alex
Greene, Sara
Greg Viejo
Hawks, Carol & Joseph
Hickey, Raquel R.
Holian, Ada & John
Hottendorf, Lori
Ignite UMC
Jones, William & Hernandez, Reinaldo
Joseph, Julene
Klem, Deborah S.
Knofsky, Jodie
Komeshak, Diane & Pat
Litten, Georgette & Randall
Lopez, Vidalis
LPC Transportation
Mehta, Eileen Ball
Mendoza, Ernesto
Morgan, Patricia & Richard
Olmedo-Rodriguez, Jennifer & Rodriguez, Alexander
Padron, Lourdes & Orlando
Paradowski, Christina
Pascual, Alex
Plaza Construction
Pruitt, Jonah & Judy
Reynolds, Douglas
Rhyner, Corinne & Matthew
Robinson, James
Seckinger, Carolyn & Daniel
Seitz, Patrick
Shank, Arden
Shelley, III Susan & Robert
Shindell, Michelle
Short, Phillip & Giovanna
Siegal, Brian
Smith, Bailey

**Up to $199**

Sylvestre, Stephanie
Travis, Geoffrey
Wilkey, Kaylin

**Between $200 and $499,**
continued from Page 4

Foersch, Daniela
Foglia, Marina S.
Foster, Michael C.
Freile, Juan Carlos
Galindo, Doris
Gamm, Paul
Gamm, Yael
Garcia, Felix
Garcia, Rosario
Geffrard, Marceline
Gibson, Patricia & James
Giraldo-Libin, Grace
Glicken, Howard
Gonzalez, Carmen
Gray, Nancy
Greist, Douglas
Greise, Mary Ann & Jeffrey
Groves, Wade
Gunn, Cameron
Gunn, Leticia
Gutierrez, Diane R.
Hall, G. Jay
Harmon, Lillian
Harrell, Keith
Harris, Axlander
Harrison, Peter Richard
Hernandez, Pedro
Hernandez, Sara M.
Hill, Mark
Horne, Kelly King
Jackson, Daniel or Patricia B.
Jimenez, Catarina
Johnson, James
Jones, Robert A.
King, Charles & Diane
Klippel, Mary
Knight, Tracy & Thomas
Lago, Olga & Vince
Lazar, Beth & Scott
Le Blanc, Elizabeth
Leon, Natasha
Lineberger, Katie
Lopez, Ana
Lopez, Maria
Luis Bouillon
Lungu, Carlos
Maier, Nikki DeLuca
Majano, Saul D.

**Up to $199**

Acella, Pascual
Adams, Nathan Paul
Adan-Fernandez, Ofelia
Alvarez, Eneida
AmazonSmile Foundation
Anderson, Matthew
Arleene Williams
Ault, Stephanie Kane
Bachmann, Karla
Bader, Gregory K.
Baiamonte, Natalie
Baker, Elizabeth & Edward
Balsinde, Sergio
Beard, Melanie
Benitez, Debbie
Bermudez, Wilmer
Bifolco, Stephanie
Bilia, Moti
Bleiker, Charles
Bonarrigo, Christina
Brownell, Robert
Burdette, Katie
Burstein, Melisse & Mark
Cabrera, Harold
Calderon, Elmar W.
Calderon, Martha E.
Casabone, Paolo
Castaldi, Angelo
Center, Brandon G.
Cervantes, Victoria
Claude, Jasmine
Cloyd, Veronica Leigh
Cole, Jane H.
Colina, Leslie
Crabtree, Bonnie
Cristancho, John
Cruz, Macarena
Cutler Ridge UMC
Dammann, Jacqueline
Davis UMC
Dinehart, Laura
Doorek, Brian
Edwards, Jack & Tomy
Encina, Lisa
Epstein, Gail
Evans, Lynn & Chester
Evans, Ryan
Eveyo, Kristina
Fernandez, Felipe
Fernandez-Guzman, Carlos & Maria
First UMC Homestead Women
Flecha, Alexandra
Foersch, Daniela

Continued on Page 5
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Donors through The Miami Foundation 2016 Give Day, Coral Gables Community Foundation & Key Biscayne Community Foundation 2016 Key to Giving Program, United Way Campaign and Challenge Star

Up to $199 continued from Page 5

- Marcelin, Martine & Gary
- Martinez, Karina
- Martinez, Mariano
- Mastin, Deborah
- Matthews, N’Shaye
- Metcalfe, David
- Montano, Carlos
- Morales, Jeannette & Ricardo
- Morales, Jimmy
- Morgan, Elaine W. & Michael W.
- Morris, Sally Stohz
- Natoli, Joseph T. & Jennifer D.
- Navatkoski, Jan
- Nelson, Kipp
- Newman, Joyce & Richard
- Norris, Robin
- Nunez, Lucy
- Nuñez, Ray Gonzalez
- Nuñez, William
- Ocasio, Sara
- Olsen, Hannah
- Ortega, Liza
- Pacouloute, Guillot
- Padilla, Luis
- Pajotte, John
- Parkinson, Jane
- Parkinson, Shelly-Ann
- Penuela-Velez, Juan
- PEO Chapter K.
- Perez, Patricia
- Pergakis, Paul
- Perlman, Deborah & Alan
- Philips, Sally B
- Pomeroy, John
- Ponce De Leon Title Services, Inc.
- Pope, Timothy

Presser, Shyla & Jay
Ralsten-Cox, Johanna
Reese, William
Reiter, Ryan
R Reynolds, Dennis
Rios, Kenneth
Rodriguez, Ricky
Rodriguez, Maria
Russell, Latisha
Russell, Nicole
Saballo, Carlos
San Miguel, Mita
Segovia, Pilar
Shapiro, Evan
Shapiro, Jenna
Sheeran, Kathleen
Shindell, James
Shomar, Nery
Shomar, Henry
Short, Giovanella
Silver Palm UMC
Simeon, Elda
Sims, Michael
Smith, Jacqueline & McGregor
Soliday, Barbara
Stowes, Hecter & TaRonce
Surisky, Stephanie
Swan, Mary & Alan
Symes, Olivia
Toelkes, Adam
Toyawanich, Julie & Agulnik, Mark
Trueba, Maria Del Carmen
Ugarte, Carlos
Urbina, Dara
Urzea, Miguel A.
Valencia, Adele
Van Gundy, Cynthia & William
Velez, Juan Pablo P.
Velez, Melody
Vellmet, Fritz

Villacampa, Jorge
Wagner, Erin
Wallace, Emelda
Warner, Carol & Dallas
Warren, Audrey & Soto, Jose Luis
Watts, Nancy & Dean
Wenke, Eric
Westra, Polly
White, Craig
Woodbury, Holly

United Way Campaign
- Anonymous
- Dorothy Gail Adams
- Eileen Ball Mehta
- Gary Hall
- Gloria Maria Arazoza
- Katrina Vanderdray
- Rob Bowby
- William J. Jones

YourCause
- Macarena Cruz
- Paolo Casabone

Apportionment
- Carol City UMC
- Davie UMC
- First UMC Boca Raton

Gifts in Honor of Lucy Nunez on her Birthday
- Eneida Alvarez
- Wilmer Bermudez
- Harold Cabrera
- Martha E. Calderon
- Leslie Colina
- Lisa Encina
- Maria & Carlos Fernandez-Guzman
- Marina S. Foglia
- Felix Garcia
- Rosario Garcia
- Catarina Jimenez
- Maria Lopez
- Lucy Nunez
- William Nunez
- Maria Del Carmen Trueba

Gift In Memory of:
- Chuck Burton from Linda Burton

Gifts In Honor of:
- Eneida Alvarez
- Wilmer Bermudez
- Harold Cabrera
- Martha E. Calderon
- Leslie Colina
- Lisa Encina
- Maria & Carlos Fernandez-Guzman
- Marina S. Foglia
- Felix Garcia
- Rosario Garcia
- Catarina Jimenez
- Maria Lopez
- Lucy Nunez
- William Nunez
- Maria Del Carmen Trueba

Gifts In Honor of Lucy Nunez on her Birthday

Gift In Memory of:
- Chuck Burton from Linda Burton

Gifts In Honor of:
- Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin from Lynn Evans
- Kim & Raymundo Torres from Kelly King Horne
- Raymundo Torres and Branches Florida City men and boys from Pastor Diane R. Gutierrez

Gifts In Honor of Lucy Nunez on her Birthday
- Eneida Alvarez
- Wilmer Bermudez
- Harold Cabrera
- Martha E. Calderon
- Leslie Colina
- Lisa Encina
- Maria & Carlos Fernandez-Guzman
- Marina S. Foglia
- Felix Garcia
- Rosario Garcia
- Catarina Jimenez
- Maria Lopez
- Lucy Nunez
- William Nunez
- Maria Del Carmen Trueba
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In-Kind Donations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Back to School:</th>
<th>Other In-Kind Donations:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alma Ad - Hosted a Back to School Party at Branches Florida City with Face</td>
<td>Seasons 52 Coral Gables - Provided Dessert for over 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painting, Temporary Tattoos, Inflatable Slide, Magic Show, Lunch and Snacks</td>
<td>Guests at Branches' Back to School Bash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Donated over 120 Backpacks filled with School Supplies Including Jump</td>
<td>South Miami Associates Group of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drives and Headphones plus 20 Cases of Copy Paper and Several Boxes of Extra</td>
<td>- 2 Large Boxes of School Supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Supplies</td>
<td>Sushi Maki - Provided Sushi for over 100 Guests at Branches'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT&amp;T - 12 Bags of Assorted School Supplies and 4 Backpacks</td>
<td>Back to School Bash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker, Elizabeth &amp; Edward - 6 Backpacks and 2 Large Boxes of Backpacks and</td>
<td>TD Bank Bird Road - Two Boxes and 1 Large Bag of Assorted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assorted School Supplies</td>
<td>School Supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biz Nest - 1 Large Box of Assorted School Supplies</td>
<td>University of Miami SONHS - Several Large Boxes filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canero Immigration Law Firm - 1 Large Box of Assorted School Supplies</td>
<td>with Backpacks and Assorted School Supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devon Seafood and Steak - Sushi for over 100 Guests at Branches' Back to</td>
<td>USI Insurance - 55 Backpacks with School Supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Bash</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPIC Hotel - 80 Jansport Backpacks, 50 Boxes of Crayons, 50 Spiral Notebooks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Boxes of Colored Pencils and 30 Glue Sticks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FirstBank Florida - 4 Large Boxes and 3 Bags of Assorted School Supplies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida International University - One Large Box of Assorted School Supplies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurtado, Elyse - 12 Pencil Boxes, 36 Ticonderoga Pencils, 12 Erasers, 12</td>
<td>Arazoza Brothers Corp. - Mulch for Branches Lakeview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight-Pack Jumbo Crayons, 800 Sheets of College Ruled Notebook Paper, 18</td>
<td>Outdoor Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pads of Post-it Notes, 25 Two-Pocket Folders, 30 Elmer's School Glue Sticks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and 500 Sheets of Construction Paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JLL - 121 Backpacks Filled with School Supplies such as Folders, Paper,</td>
<td>Balkin, Lisa - 2 Large Bags of Baby Clothing and Accessories,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composition Notebooks, Pencil Boxes, Crayons, Colored Pencils, Glue Sticks,</td>
<td>Baby Carrier, Infant Car Seat and Base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scissors and Pencils</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JLL- Property Management Office - 2 Boxes of School Supplies</td>
<td>Castle Harbor Boat Club &amp; School - 2017 Summer Sailing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JP Morgan Chase Bank - Over 5 Large Boxes of Assorted School Supplies</td>
<td>Camp Scholarships for 9 Branches Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami Herald Media Company - 3 Large Boxes of School Supplies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pallavicini, Mayner - Provided DJ Service for 3 Hours for Branches’ Back to</td>
<td>City Furniture - Twin Bunk Bed with Mattress and a Twin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Bash</td>
<td>Bed Frame with Mattress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parra, Alexandra - 4 Uniform Skirts</td>
<td>First UMC Boca Raton - Hosted Branches Climb to College &amp;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pisco y Nazca - Provided Short Rib Samples for over 100 Guests at Branches'</td>
<td>Career Bootcamp on August 11th and 12th, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back to School Bash</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pizza Rev - Provided Pizza for over 100 Guests at Branches’s Back to School</td>
<td>First UMC Coral Gables - Rented Pool at A.D. Barnes Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bash</td>
<td>and Hosted Pool Party for Branches Florida City and Branches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regions Financial Corporation - 7 Boxes of Assorted School Supplies and</td>
<td>South Miami Youth with Lunch From Pollo Tropical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Backpack</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodriguez, Jessica - 48 Backpacks and 48 School Supply Kits Including</td>
<td>FPD Painting Corp. - Provided all of the Paint, Brushes and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notebooks, Folders, Rulers, Pencils, Pens, Crayons, Glue Sticks and More</td>
<td>Prime Materials for Outdoor Classroom Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Galleria Farms - Flowers for 20 Centerpieces for the Climb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to College &amp; Career Summer Celebration Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Howard, Kathy &amp; Scott - 4 New Pairs of Water Shoes and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Water Bottles for Branches South Miami’s Sailing Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Other In-Kind Donations, continued from Page 7

♦ Law Offices of Dagmar Llaudy - 2 Large Bags of Halloween Costumes
♦ Lush Life - Mulch for Branches Lakeview Outdoor Classroom
♦ Pike, Isabelle - 1 Blue Men's Jacket and a Men's Navy Suit
♦ Prindle, Hunter - 20 Bags of School Uniforms Including Polo Shirts, Pants or Skirts, Socks and Shoes
♦ Shula’s Grill 347 - Hosted a Cooking Demonstration for 6 Branches Students and 2 Staff with Lunch
♦ The Miami FC - Donated over 1,500 Tickets to Various Games for Branches Families
♦ Total Safety Consulting - Wood Needed to Build Branches Lakeview Outdoor Classroom and 5 Benches
♦ WPLG Local 10 - Over 300 New Books for Branches Students
♦ Zambrano, Amy - 1 PlayStation and Several Games, Over 200 Books, One Large Bag of Legos, 1 Wii Gaming System, Two Large Bags of Barbies and Accessories, 1 Bag of New Books, Two Gym Mats, Wii Fit System and Scrapbook Materials
♦ Zaniac - 1 Minecraft Workshop and 1 Robotics Workshop Held at Branches South Miami on July 6, 2017 and 1 week of Summer Camp Registration for 2 Students from Branches South Miami
♦ Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity Housing Corporation - 2 Sofas, 4 Armchairs, 1 Ottoman, 2 Decorative End Chairs, 1 Dining Table, 2 Large Tower Cabinets, 1 Butcher Block Counter, 3 Dining Room Straight Back Chairs, 3 Commercial Area Rugs, Wood TV Trays and 2 Leatherette upholstered Straight Back Chairs
Branches Celebrated its' 14th Annual Black Tie & Blue Jeans Benefit Dinner and Auction on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at the JW Marriott Marquis. Over 450 guests attended and helped to raise over $370,000 for Branches' programs which provide services and life-changing opportunities to low-income children, youth and families focused on long-term success.

The event was co-chaired by Gala Chairs Mr. Dustin Symes of City National Bank and Mrs. Laurie Zapletal of BB&T and kicked off with a cocktail reception and a silent auction, followed by dinner and dancing, as well as an appeal and an exciting live auction, led by MC Mr. Calvin Hughes of WPLG Local 10 and Auctioneer and board member Mr. Scott Howard. The event also honored David Lawrence Jr. for his long-time and generous support of the South Florida Community with the Trish and Dan Bell Community Empowerment Award. All proceeds from the appeal of that evening supported Branches' Summer Shade Camp and all donations were doubled since they are matched $1:$1 by a generous Challenge Grant provided by Trish and Dan Bell.

Branches would like to thank all who supported Black Tie & Blue Jeans. In particular, we want to recognize the following premiere sponsors:

**Trish & Dan Bell**
*Philanthropic Chairs*

**Sandy & Rodney Bell**
*Platinum Sponsor*

**BB&T**
*Gold Sponsor*

**City National Bank**
*Silver Sponsor*

**Betty Chapman & Dale Chapman Webb**
*Crow Horwath LLP*
**Grossman Roth P.A.**
*JP Morgan Chase*
**The Medina Family Foundation**
*Missy & Jim Morgan*
**Wells Fargo**
*Bronze Sponsors*

**Top Wines Import**
*Beverage Sponsor*

**Philanthropic Chairs Dan & Trish Bell, Roberta Lawrence & Award Honoree David Lawrence Jr., Nancy & Jon Batchelor and Executive Director Brent McLaughlin**

**Gala Co-Chairs Dustin Symes and Board Member Laurie Zapletal**

**Board Chair Rodney Bell, Riley Bell, Reese Bell, Nicole Ballesteros and Sandy Bell**

**Executive Director Brent McLaughlin and Shelley & Larry Rutherford**

**Shelley Rutherford, Judge Bronwyn Miller, Judge Migna Sanchez-Llorens and Carrie Bodin**

**Christina & TJ Villamil**

**Pam Garrison and Philanthropic Chairs Dan & Trish Bell**
Grow, Climb...

**Climb to College & Career Bootcamp**

Summer is a popular time when most high school juniors and seniors visit colleges and start planning for their future as they anticipate the start of a new school year. However, that is not always the case for all students. The reality is that many low income students face college planning challenges due to social and language obstacles, less exploration because of low expectations and underestimation of the amount of financial help available.

Branches’ Climb to College & Career (CtC) program served 97 youth this past summer, which is an exciting first for this new initiative. During the school year, CtC prepares youth to succeed in their chosen educational path beyond high school through life skills classes, academic tutoring support, a mentor relationship and ultimately are able to qualify for a Branches scholarship.

This past Summer, 97 Branches youth came together for In Focus, an intense two week college prep session divided into cohorts, from 8th -12th Grade, and participated in interactive workshops on financial aid education, college coaching, SAT prep from expert professionals and college tours.

After In Focus, 35 juniors and seniors were able to jump start the college readiness planning process with a culminating session at the overnight Climb to College & Career Boot Camp where students receive individualized coaching from college counselors to create a plan for the application process. They also worked with a writing coach to draft personal essays for scholarships and college admissions. The boot camp ended with a banquet where the students dressed up to celebrate their hard work, and each other.

**OASIS Camp: More Than Just Camp**

From April 9-12, over 200 of our middle and high school students were able to get away and enjoy a few days at the Warren W. Willis Camp in Leesburg, FL. Warren Willis, a camping ministry of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church provides a Christ centered camping experience that transform the lives of young people.

Thanks to the generous support from Trish and Dan Bell, Branches students have the opportunity to take part in this amazing experience and take a break from their often turbulent lives and escape to paradise, even if it just for a few days. Branches students look forward to attending this camp all year long and for many of them, Warren Willis Camp is the first time they leave their community. Campers’ schedules are packed with activities for the different age levels; elementary, middle, and high school students each have different themed programming that allows them to work together to accomplish specific goals. Each morning is started with a quiet time on the lakeshore singing songs and reflecting on God’s purpose for their lives. Just some of the fun activities range from crafts to archery, from soccer to cooking, and from sailing to yoga.

This special camp is truly a place for growth, love, and for branching out in ways our students never thought they could, and it is an experience that will stay with our Branches campers forever.

**Photos:**
- Top: Branches students working on online career assessments.
- Bottom: Branches youth touring University of South Florida.
- Most recently, Branches honored Mr. Herb Parlato (left) with the Inaugural Herbert C. Parlato Volunteer Award. Herb has been instrumental in mentoring many Branches children who are now successful college students.
- Middle School girls enjoying lunch together.
- SAY CHEESE!
- Outdoor Fun!
- All smiles at the pool!
Branches Happenings

Branches’ Back to School Bash was a Blast!

Over 100 guests attended Branches’ 1st Annual Back to School Bash on August 10th, 2017 at the UHealth Lennar Foundation Medical Center. Guests mixed and mingled as they enjoyed drinks, delicious appetizers and music by DJ Mayner. Guests were also able to fill a new backpack with school supplies and write a note of encouragement for a Branches student. A special thank you to Team FootWorks and Gibraltar Private Bank & Trust for their great support of this event and of course our incredible restaurant partners for bringing such yummy treats for our guests: Sushi Maki, PizzaRev, Seasons 52, Pisco y Nazca Ceviche Gastrobar and Devon Seafood + Steak Kendall.

We are also grateful for the wonderful support of our partners who are helping us make sure all 406 of Branches’ children and youth can go back to school ready to learn with the proper supplies and tools they need: JLL, EPIC Miami Residences and Hotel, and Alma Advertising Agency. Thank you again to everyone who came out to this fun event and supported our kids!

Branches staff strike a pose at the thank you reception.

VITA : Real Impact on our Community

Branches is proud to once again have served as the Miami-Dade County lead agency for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program which offers free tax help to people who earn approximately $54,000 annually or less and need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. Our volunteers and staff also help filers check if they qualify for special tax credits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) among others. About 60% of individuals living in Miami-Dade qualify for VITA, yet less than 2% are taking advantage of it.

Branches partnered with United Way of Miami-Dade in order to educate our community about VITA and spread the word about this free service to key neighborhoods. Branches and its partners are very proud to share that we were able to prepare 9,918 free tax returns and secure over $13 million in tax refunds for our local residents. We are incredibly proud of this accomplishment!

To celebrate the 460+ volunteers who helped make VITA possible, Branches hosted a special thank you reception at United Way on Thursday, May 25th to show our sincere appreciation for their hard work. Together, these amazing volunteers served a total of 15,089 hours helping individuals prepare their taxes free of charge. Thank you again to everyone involved in this incredible community effort!
Branches To Celebrate 17th Thanksgiving Meal Delivery Anniversary
Thursday, November 23, 2017

To mark the 17th year of this meal delivery program, we will prepare and deliver meals from 5 sites on Thanksgiving Day throughout Miami-Dade and Broward Counties to feed at least 5,000 community members in need. But we need your support! Some ways you can help:

Be a Premiere Sponsor!
- $5,000—Thanksgiving T-Shirt Sponsor
- $2,500—Thanksgiving Site Sponsor
  (Provides 500 meals)
- $1,000—Thanksgiving Sponsor
  (Provides 200 meals)
- $500—Thanksgiving Supporter
  (Provides 100 meals)

For sponsorship details, please contact:
Isabelle Pike
Phone: 305-442-8306 x1002
Email: ipike@branchesfl.org

Raise Additional Support!
- Help us raise cash and in-kind donations to support the Thanksgiving Day Meal Delivery.
- Organize food drives (workplace, church, school, etc.) to collect non-perishable food items for the Thanksgiving meals. All non-Thanksgiving food items are distributed by our partner churches’ food pantries to community members in need during the year.
- Organize volunteer teams to help with meal prep and delivery on Thanksgiving Day.

For food drive and volunteer details, visit www.branchesfl.org and click on Events, Thanksgiving!

When this ministry began in 2001, we delivered about 600 meals. In 2016, we delivered over 5,100 meals with the help of over 1,000 volunteers. THANK YOU again to our supporters who faithfully help us each year to provide for those who have little. God Bless!