



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

**Miami Corporate Partners and Philanthropists Join Branches for the  
Annual Black Tie & Blue Jeans Benefit Dinner**

*The benefit dinner held on April 27th contributes to financial stability services  
for low-income families and their children*

March 27, 2019 - Miami, FL - On Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, Branches, a local non-profit dedicated to providing life-changing opportunities to working families and their children, will celebrate its 16th Annual Black Tie & Blue Jeans Benefit Dinner and Auction at the JW Marriott Marquis. More than 500 guests are expected to attend and help raise funds for Branches' programs focused on long-term personal success.

"Almost 60% of families in our community are struggling to make ends meet. Branches serves to create opportunities for these children and families to break the cycle of generational poverty and succeed in school, become more financially stable, and attain a high quality of life. With generous support from individuals, church and corporate partners, we are making an impact for thousands of our neighbors in need", says Brent McLaughlin, Executive Director of Branches.

The event will kick-off with a cocktail reception and an extensive silent auction, followed by dinner and dancing, as well as an appeal and an exciting live auction. A few of the notable auction items include a private Bahama Island home stay, a Seaplane Flight & Lunch in the Keys, a VIP Shopping Experience, a Blimp Ride, and more. Master of Ceremonies and Zoo Miami Ambassador Ron Magill, and auctioneer and Branches' board member Scott Howard will lead the evening's program and auction. Individual tickets: \$300; tables start at \$3,000.

The benefit dinner will also include the presentation of the Trish and Dan Bell Community Empowerment Award to an incredible couple, Marile and Jorge Luis Lopez, Esq.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the benefit dinner's appeal will support Branches' Summer Shade Camp. The seven-week long Summer Shade day camp serves more than 400 Branches children and provides employment for more than 30 of Branches youth to serve as Summer Guides or camp counselors. A Challenge Grant provided by generous Miami philanthropists Trish and Dan Bell will match the evening appeal contributions dollar-for-dollar.

The 16th Annual Black Tie & Blue Jeans is made possible thanks to countless volunteers, many of whom have taken a leadership role in planning this annual event. Victoria and Jason Randolph are chairing the Gala along with Philanthropic Chairs Trish and Dan Bell.

Premiere and corporate sponsors of the event include the Himan Brown Charitable Trust, Sandy and Rodney Bell, FIU Foundation as well as Aetna, Amicon, Center State Bank, City National Bank, Crowe, JP Morgan Chase, Missy and Jim Morgan, PMG, Publix, The Tonkinson Foundation and more.

For more details, please visit [www.branchesfl.org/benefitdinner](http://www.branchesfl.org/benefitdinner) or contact Isabelle Pike at 305-442-8306 x1002 or [ipike@branchesfl.org](mailto:ipike@branchesfl.org)

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**About Branches**

For over 40 years, Branches has made a positive impact in the community by delivering on its mission to serve, educate and inspire people through student, family and financial stability services. Branches provides long-term, holistic services for motivated individuals and families. We help people grow deeper and climb higher in life by building a foundation through education so they can achieve their goals and fulfill their potential. For more information about Branches, please contact Isabelle Pike at 305-442-8306 x1002 or [ipike@branchesfl.org](mailto:ipike@branchesfl.org) or visit Branches at [www.branchesfl.org](http://www.branchesfl.org)

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