



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Branches Continuing to Serve Hundreds of Federal Workers in Need Affected
by Government Shutdown**

January 29, 2019 – Branches has been extremely busy serving hundreds of federal workers in Miami who have been affected by the Government Shutdown. Almost two weeks ago, Branches' Financial Wellness team served at the Miami International Airport, providing information about critical financial resources to TSA employees. Last week, Branches served alongside Feeding South Florida at their distributions and once again provided resources and information about assistance for government employees.

Branches has been helping individuals with financial coaching, free tax prep, helping navigate late mortgage payments to banks, utility companies etc. and with the support of United Way of Miami-Dade, is providing rental and utility payment assistance for those most in need. Branches is actively looking to secure funding to also help affected workers with transportation and childcare costs. Even though the Shutdown has officially ended, thousands of federal employees are still waiting to be paid, and many federal contractors, unlike other government employees, are not expected to get back pay for the paychecks they missed during the 35-day shutdown.

“Branches is proud to be actively serving and helping affected government workers who are struggling during this challenging situation. We are so grateful that our community has come together to address this emergency and support those in their time of need.” Brent McLaughlin, Executive Director of Branches.

Branches is currently in need of volunteers to help with returning phone calls from dozens of individuals who are in need of assistance. To volunteer, please email ipike@branchesfl.org.

If you are a federal employee and require services, please call us at 305-442-8306 x2008. You may also find resources on our website at www.branchesfl.org/home/programs/achieve

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 additional information about Branches, please call 305.442.8306 or visit <http://www.branchesfl.org>.

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