



**Branches**  
Grow Deeper, Climb Higher

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Isabelle Pike  
305-442-8306 x1002  
ipike@branchesfl.org

**VITA Volunteers Wanted: Changing Lives One Tax Return at a Time**

(November 5, 2019) – The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program is a national initiative to offer accurate, secure, and free tax help, to lower income households. Branches has once again been chosen by the IRS to lead VITA for the 2020 tax season in Miami-Dade County. The Miami-Dade VITA coalition known as Miami Tax Pros, is group of 23 local organizations that operates over 50 free tax preparation sites offering services from North Miami to Florida City and some of the keys. In the 2019 tax season alone, Branches and its partners helped file over 11,000 tax returns, securing over \$13 million in tax refunds for our local community. Because VITA tax preparation is truly free, our tax filers also saved over \$2.94 million in preparation fees they would have paid elsewhere.

VITA services are professional and free for people who generally make \$56,000 or less, persons with different abilities, new to the country, the elderly and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. All returns are prepared and electronically filed by IRS-certified volunteers. Their comprehensive training results in the highest accuracy rate of all tax preparation services, including big name paid preparers. This means tax filers can rest assured they are getting all the credits they qualify for including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit (CTC), and other valuable credits. The EITC is our nation's most effective antipoverty tool, serving as a refundable tax credit available to low- and moderate-income households with members who work. For many filers who receive a refund, the infusion of cash can be a substantial part of their annual income. Filers who owe, on the other hand, often need support in managing payments and staying afloat, a service Branches' financial coaches are able to provide.

**Branches is currently looking for volunteers that will like to make an immediate difference in a family's life by supporting the 2020 tax season. We are looking for tax preparers, greeters, reviewers, saving champions, translators and site coordinators. As a volunteer, you will join the thousands of others who each year prepare millions of tax returns at thousands of tax sites nationwide. As a committed tax volunteer you'll be assigned to work with a sponsoring organization, first to receive training and then to begin volunteering at a location in your community. Training is offered both online and in the classroom. Tax sites are generally open nights and weekends and the hours are flexible. You will surely find a volunteer site close to you! The next VITA Volunteer Training classes are scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup> as well as December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. To register for a class, please contact [vita@branchesfl.org](mailto:vita@branchesfl.org)**

For more details, please visit [www.branchesfl.org](http://www.branchesfl.org) and click on VITA or contact us at 305-442-8306 x2008 or [info@branchesfl.org](mailto:info@branchesfl.org). Thank you!

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**About Branches**

For over 45 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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