



### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact:

Isabelle Pike

305-206-5689

[ipike@branchesfl.org](mailto:ipike@branchesfl.org)

Audria Belton

SunTrust Foundation

404.813.3664

[audria.belton@suntrust.com](mailto:audria.belton@suntrust.com)

## **Branches Receives SunTrust Foundation's 2018 Lighting the Way Award and \$75,000 Grant**

Miami, Florida - October 18, 2018 – Recognized for its philanthropic contributions to Miami, Branches was awarded a 2018 Lighting the Way Award and \$75,000 grant by the SunTrust Foundation.

The SunTrust Foundation's Lighting the Way Awards recognizes select nonprofit organizations that strengthen their local communities through programs that help people better their circumstances and gain financial confidence.

"We're committed to building stronger communities, and our nonprofit partners are addressing community needs in innovative and very meaningful ways," said Stan Little, president of the SunTrust Foundation. "Branches is improving the lives of many people, and we applaud their mission, long-term service and the impact they're making where it's most needed."

Branches is one of 36 nonprofits recognized by the 2018 Lighting the Way Awards in the categories of financial education, financial counseling, small business and entrepreneurship, and career readiness and workforce development. These organizations spanned the Southeast and Midwest regions and received a total of \$2.7 million in grants.

"We thank SunTrust for this wonderful recognition and support as a Lighting the Way awardee! This award gives Branches the opportunity to deepen our work in Financial Wellness as we serve hundreds of children and their families," said Brent McLaughlin, Executive Director of Branches.

Established in 2008, the SunTrust Foundation is committed to supporting a wide range of financial well-being efforts through grants and partnerships with local philanthropic organizations. To date, the SunTrust Foundation has awarded more than \$140 million in grants to organizations across the United States.

### **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).

**About the SunTrust Foundation**

The SunTrust Foundation is dedicated to SunTrust Bank's purpose of Lighting the Way to Financial Well-Being by engaging organizations to advance financial confidence. Grants and activities focus primarily on financial empowerment, but also include education, health and human services, civic improvement and cultural growth. The SunTrust Foundation supports American Red Cross disaster relief efforts and contributes as a United Way Global Corporate Leader. Established in 2008, the SunTrust Foundation has proudly provided grants totaling more than \$140 million throughout the United States.

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