



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Branches' 18th Annual Thanksgiving Serves and Delivers nearly 5,000 Meals to Families in Need**

November 22, 2018 - On November 22nd, 2018, Thanksgiving morning, Branches cooked, packaged and delivered nearly 5,000 hot meals to needy individuals and families from 7 different sites throughout Miami-Dade and Broward counties. This is the largest meal delivery effort in Florida on Thanksgiving Day. Over 800 volunteers worked very hard on Thanksgiving morning by putting together individual meals via assembly lines and passing them off to volunteer drivers who delivered them. Each meal includes turkey, green beans donated by Goya Foods of Florida, stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, a roll and of course a piece of pumpkin pie.

However, Branches' Thanksgiving program is about much more than just a hot meal; all meals include a Meal Insert printed in English, Spanish and Creole, which provides clients with valuable information about free community resources and programs provided by Branches and other key partners.

Branches is excited to be celebrating its 18th Thanksgiving Anniversary. Branches partners with several United Methodist congregations to make this Thanksgiving miracle possible. Volunteers begin the cooking preparations a few days prior to Thanksgiving which include the seasoning of turkeys and prepping of all the vegetables, trimmings and dessert. Many volunteer chefs and cooks will spend countless hours getting ready for the big day to make sure that everything goes off without a hitch.

In addition, Branches provided over 350 hot meals to its Grow & Climb children and youth program participants on Thanksgiving Eve, which included a wonderful celebration focused on gratefulness.

A huge thank you goes out to our premiere Thanksgiving Meal Delivery sponsors:

UPS

Alan Goldfarb P.A.

The Batchelor Foundation

Carnival Foundation

Mercantil Bank

Molina Healthcare of Florida

Publix Super Markets Charities

South East District of the United Methodist Church

To learn more about this program or to make a gift, please visit <http://branchesfl.org/thanksgiving-meal-delivery>. Thank you!

### **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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