



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **United Way of Miami-Dade To Honor Branches' Executive Director and Board Member at Annual Meeting & Volunteer Awards Ceremony**

**(MIAMI, June 5, 2019)** – Branches, a local non-profit dedicated to providing life-changing opportunities to working families and their children, is proud to announce that its Executive Director Brent McLaughlin will be honored with the 2019 Monsignor Walsh Outstanding Human Services Professional Award.

United Way of Miami-Dade hosts their Annual Meeting & Volunteer Awards Ceremony each June, honoring 5 professionals and 1 youth each year with five very prestigious awards. This year's awards luncheon will be taking place on Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at Jungle Island. This year, in an unprecedented move, United Way is honoring 2 individuals involved with the same organization, Branches.

Mr. McLaughlin will be receiving the Monsignor Walsh Outstanding Human Services Professional Award which recognizes a human services professional who has dedicated his or her career to helping others. This person, through his or her commitment of time and talent in the human services field, has helped to shape a caring, responsive social services delivery system and has afforded hundreds of people in our community an opportunity for a healthy, productive and high quality life. Mr. McLaughlin certainly embodies the principles of this award; under his tenure since 2001, Branches has grown more than 40x to include children and youth development services, asset-building services for families and an emphasis on creating a transformational culture. Each year more than 10,000 children and adults experience life-changing opportunities at Branches.

"I am grateful to the United Way to be recognized with this prestigious award and also acknowledge that so many people including our staff, volunteers and donors have embraced Branches' mission and truly made a lasting impact in people's lives. I am grateful for each of them." says Brent McLaughlin, Executive Director of Branches.

In addition, United Way of Miami-Dade will be honoring Branches board member Jim Morgan with the Dorothy Shula Award for Outstanding Volunteerism which honors an individual whose volunteer work embodies the standards set by Dorothy Shula. It recognizes an individual who exemplifies volunteerism and whose commitment to bringing hope, promise and opportunity into the lives of others has left a lasting positive impact on a person, group, or community at large. Mr. Morgan, a partner with Squire Patton Boggs, has given selflessly to the Miami community through service at Branches, The Parkinson's Foundation, First United Methodist Church of Coral Gables, First United Methodist Church of Miami and many other organizations.

Branches is incredibly proud of both Mr. McLaughlin's and Mr. Morgan's accomplishments and looks forward to many more years of successful and long-term impact in the Miami community. For more details, please 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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