



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Miami Corporate Partners and Philanthropists Join Branches for the
First Virtual Gala and Online Auction**

*The Gala held on April 29th contributes to educational and financial wellness services
for low-income families and their children*

(MIAMI, April 28, 2021) – On Thursday, April 29th at 7pm, Branches, a local non-profit dedicated to providing life-changing opportunities to working families and their children, will celebrate its 18th Annual Black Tie & Blue Jeans Virtual Gala and Online Auction. Hundreds of guests are expected to tune in to watch the show and help raise funds for Branches' programs focused on long-term success.

In April 2020, Branches was forced to cancel its Annual Gala just weeks before it was supposed to take place due to COVID-19. Fortunately, Branches' many supporters helped make the non-event a success to raise resources during a very difficult time for this community. Since the COVID-19 Pandemic hit the Miami community, Branches has been working tirelessly to serve our children & families. They ramped up meal service and to date have provided over 29,000 grab-and-go meals for our children and families. Within 24 hours of the schools closing last March, Branches' Grow & Climb student services team began connecting with children, youth and families via phone calls, text messages and Zoom meetings. Socially distanced on-site services resumed in August. The Achieve team is providing virtual financial wellness services through financial coaching, small business and emergency assistance. The Achieve staff has provided over 4,800 virtual financial wellness sessions and has provided over 1,280 small businesses with business coaching services.

This year's Gala will be virtual and is made possible thanks to MC Ron Magill, Gala Chairs Victoria and Jason Randolph, as well as Philanthropic Chairs Trish and Dan Bell who have committed to a \$ for \$ Matching Grant for all sponsorships and donations towards the Gala. Branches' Online Auction will be live the evening of the Gala and be open for bidding until Friday, May 14th and closing at 8pm. Take a sneak peak at the auction [here](#).

Premiere sponsors of the event include Shining Star Sponsor, The Himan Brown Charitable Trust, as well as Platinum Sponsor, Truist. Gold Sponsors include Rodney H. Bell, Kathy & Scott Howard, Missy & Jim Morgan, Victoria & Jason Randolph, The Huizenga Family Foundation and The Tonkinson Foundation. Bronze Sponsors include Tomy & Jack Edwards, Kathy & Bob Kowalski, Ray Rosario Jr. & Rodney Little Jr., Darrell Windle & Dave Samber, Aetna, Bilzin Sumberg, Florida Power & Light, City National Bank, Publix, Crowe LLP, JP Morgan Chase and IBERIABANK / First Horizon. A huge thank you goes out to all our sponsors, including our Patron Sponsors and many individual donors as well.

For more details, please visit www.branchesfl.org/gala or contact Isabelle Pike at 305-442-8306 x1002 or ipike@branchesfl.org

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 or visit Branches at www.branchesfl.org

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