

BRIDGE BUILDER

Summer 2014

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Mission Statement:

To serve, educate and inspire people through student, family and financial stability services in partnership with our communities.

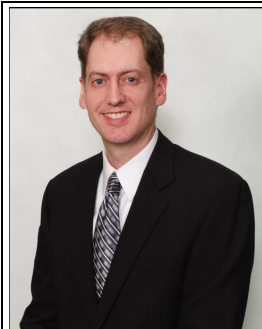
Get Involved:

If you would like to know more about how to donate and/or volunteer, please contact us at:
 305-442-8306
info@branchesfl.org
www.branchesfl.org



Branches
 Grow Deeper, Climb Higher

From the Desk of the Director



It Takes A Family...

Dear Friends,

I joined the children from the Grow program here at our Lakeview campus for a Thanksgiving meal last year. It was the day before Thanksgiving and we were all gathered around a big table with lots of food. One by one we shared about something for which we were thankful. A boy named Jonathan shared without hesitation, "I'm thankful for my Branches family!"

We like to talk about the Branches family both to our team and to those we serve. But more importantly it is what we do each day and how we treat each other that makes Branches more than a social service agency and truly a place of community. So when someone succeeds, we all celebrate and when someone stumbles or falls, we support them and surround them with love – just like a family.

I was down at Branches Florida City recently and one of our team members who had grown up at Branches, Fredy Rodriguez, had just completed his course of study at FIU. Kim Torres and team had arranged a surprise graduation party for him. There were some 75 children onsite and we all gathered outside under the tent to congratulate Fredy and celebrate with him. When it came time for Fredy to speak, he encouraged them to follow in his footsteps and not be deterred by all the challenges that might arise. After all, he said, you will always have your Branches family to support you!



Fredy feeling loved!

We are excited to announce that 10 Branches seniors recently graduated from high school. We couldn't be more proud of them and to be able to say that we attained 100% graduation rate yet again! They have been accepted to colleges all over the state of Florida such as UF, FAMU, and FIU among others. Many of them will be the first in their families to enroll in college. Thank you for helping Branches create a community of support that leads to successful life outcomes for Fredy and so many others!

Grateful to be part of the Branches Family,

Brent McLaughlin
 Executive Director



Capital Campaign Update

Branches Florida City Groundbreaking, 94% to Goal!

Branches celebrated the official groundbreaking ceremony of its Branches Florida City building project on February 26th at which the name of the facility was unveiled as the Trish and Dan Bell Family Branches Center – Florida City Campus. Trish and Dan Bell have been anonymously supporting Branches since 2005 through generous matching grants and an endowment for summer camp scholarships provided to children. Combined, they have contributed or pledged nearly \$7,000,000 to the organization to date. During this timeframe, Branches has scaled operations from one site and less than 1,000 served to four sites throughout Miami-Dade County serving over 11,000 children, youth and adults each year. Branches has a 100% high school graduation rate among its students who have stayed in the Branches program through high school, and it currently has 19 of its students in college, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college.

The new Branches Florida City facility is scheduled to open its doors by September 2014. The 11,000 square foot facility, built on land donated by the United Methodist Church, will enable Branches to more than triple the number of children and families currently being served, which is sure to have a long-term positive impact on this community. The new building will feature several classrooms, a recreation room, a computer lab, a large covered patio space, a new playground and a large multi-purpose room that will be used by Branches as well as the Branches United Methodist Mission. Branches Florida City will also house the United Way Center for Financial Stability of South Dade, which will provide comprehensive financial coaching and trainings for families.

Branches is 94% to goal but we are still raising resources for this Capital Campaign!
All gifts made before December 31, 2014 will be matched \$1: \$1 thanks to our Challenge Grant.

To make a gift, please contact Isabelle Pike at 305-442-8306 x1002 or ipike@branchesfl.org



Above: The Bell Family proudly unveils the name of the new Branches Florida City building.

Right: The Branches students are overjoyed about their first tour of their new home.



THANK YOU!!



Branches
Grow Deeper, Climb Higher

growing our Future

Branches Happenings

Black Tie & Blue Jeans Benefit Dinner and Auction

Branches celebrated its 11th Annual Black Tie & Blue Jeans benefit dinner and auction on Friday, April 4th, 2014 at the Trump National Doral in the beautiful Legends Ballroom. Over 300 guests attended and helped to raise over \$170,000 for Branches' programs providing services to low-income children, youth and families.

The event kicked off with a cocktail reception and a silent auction, followed by dinner and dancing, as well as an appeal and an exciting live auction. All proceeds from the appeal will go towards the Branches children and youth programs and all donations will be matched by a generous \$1:\$1 Challenge Grant.

Branches would like to thank all who supported Black Tie & Blue Jeans. In particular, we want to recognize the following sponsors:

Trish & Dan Bell
Philanthropic Chairs

The Batchelor Foundation
Sandy & Rod Bell
Diamond Sponsor

BB&T
Platinum Sponsor

City National
Gerson, Preston, Robinson & Co.
Holland & Knight
PNC Bank
Regions Bank
Patrons

Thank you to the Benefit Dinner Committee Chairs Laurie Zapletal and Jonah Pruitt III, and their fantastic committee members who helped to make this event possible. We also appreciate the kind support from our Advisory Committee: Trish & Dan Bell and Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin. Branches is grateful for their support!

Save the Date: Friday, May 1st, 2015!



Fun and Fellowship at Black Tie & Blue Jeans!!



Ellen Oppenheimer and
Philanthropic Chairs
Trish and Dan Bell



Charlie West, Dustin and Olivia Symes
& Omar Cordero



Laurie Zapletal, Billy
Zapletal & Stephanie
Zapletal-Papio



Board Chair Rod
Bell and Sandy Bell

THANK YOU to all our generous donors for supporting Branches' programs!

All donors from Oct. 1, 2013-June 20, 2014 are listed at www.branchesfl.org/news/newsletters

A special thank you goes out to our premiere supporters:

Anonymous (2) * The Batchelor Foundation * Trish and Dan Bell * The Children's Trust * Citi Foundation * Florida Conference UMC * Nancy T. Hector * Himan Brown Charitable Trust * Miami-Dade County PHCD * The Miami Foundation * Ocean Reef Foundation * Patrick P. Lee Foundation * Protestant Foundation at Ocean Reef * SFRTA * United Way of Broward County * United Way of Miami-Dade * Volunteer Florida

Thank You, Branches Sponsors & Stakeholders!

List includes contributions received by Branches from October 1, 2013 to June 18, 2014. If you sent a contribution during this period and do not see your name on the list, please contact us at (305) 442-8306 x1005.

\$20,000 and above

Bell, Trish & Dan
 Anonymous 1
 Anonymous 2
 Citi Foundation
 Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church
 Hector, Nancy T.
 Himan Brown Charitable Trust
 Miami - Dade County PHCD
 North Dade Medical Foundation
 Ocean Reef Community Foundation
 Patrick P Lee Foundation
 Protestant Foundation of the Ocea Reef Chapel
 South Florida Regional Transportation Authority
 The Batchelor Foundation, Inc.
 The Children's Trust of Miami Dade
 The Miami Foundation
 United Way Miami-Dade
 United Way of Broward County
 Volunteer Florida

Between \$10,000 and \$19,999

BB&T
 Bi-Lo Holdings / Winn-Dixie
 Macy's

Between \$5,000 and \$9,999

Allegheny Franciscan Ministries
 Anonymous 3
 Bacardi, Hilda
 Bank of America Charitable Foundation
 Bell, Sandy & Rodney
 Best Buy Children's Foundation
 Carnival Foundation
 Catalyst Miami
 Florida Blue
 General Board of Global Ministries
 Homestead Miami Speedway
 HSBC
 Johnson, Sherry & Alex
 The Darrell R. Windle Charitable Fund
 The UPS Foundation
 Traynor, Christine & W. Byron
 Wilford, Linda & Mark

Between \$1,000 and \$4,999

Alger, Richard & Jolayne
 Ault, Cindy & Greg
 Becker, Kathryn Nan
 Beddow, Megan
 Benditte, Gabriele & Reinhard

Bilzin Sumberg
 Book, Ronald L.
 Branches United Methodist Mission
 Brown Mackie College - Miami
 Burdette, Barbara
 City National Bank
 City of Florida City
 Coco Plum Women's Club
 Cummins, Kary
 Elmer, Marie & Daniel
 Espirito Santo Bank
 Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas
 First UMC Coral Gables
 Florida Power & Light Company
 Floyd, Philip
 Ft. Pierce Haitian Mission
 Geller, Larry
 Gerson, Preston, Robinson & Co.
 Giblin, Sandy & Gene
 Goya Foods of Florida
 Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
 Howard, Kathy & Scott
 Huseby, John K.
 Kowalski, Kathleen & Robert
 La Libre Initiative
 McLaughlin, Karen & Brent
 Merritt, Patsy & Al
 Molina Healthcare of Florida, Inc.
 Morgan, Missy & James Emore III
 Munz, Charles P.
 New Jerusalem Primitive Baptist Church
 Onsgard, Debbie & Robert
 Padron, Lourdes & Orlando
 Parlato, Herbert
 Perez, Barbara & Deppman, Ed
 Perrine Peters UMC
 Pike, Isabelle & Russell
 Price, Collin
 Prothro, Rebecca & Carleton
 Publix Charities
 Regions Financial Corporation
 Styne, Barbara & Phillip
 The PNC Financial Services Group
 Torres, Kim & Raymundo
 TotalBank
 Tunnessen, Jo Ann & Jim
 United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education
 VITAS Hospice Services, LLC
 WorkSquare

Between \$500 and \$999

Amesur, Silvana A.
 Bill Ussery Motors

Bodin, Carrie & Amory
 Burdette, Katie
 Burger, Ellen
 City Furniture
 Dixon, Lois & Edward
 Dolan, Vanessa
 Edwards, Jack & Tomy
 Eisenberg, Dorothy
 Evans, Lynn & Chester
 First Presbyterian Church of Miami
 Foshee, Anne & Durwood
 Gray, Robert
 Health Foundation of South Florida
 Kahn, Laurie & Fabian
 Kendall UMC Women
 Killian Pines UMC
 Kowalski, Kathleen
 Marcelin, Martine & Gary
 Milledge, Sandra & Brother
 Morgan, Patricia & Richard
 Murff, Kay & William
 Norell, Robin
 Palmer Trinity Private School, Inc.
 Peel, Jan Harrison
 Price, Nicole
 Pruitt, Jonah & Judy
 Redland Community UMC
 Reyes, Walter
 Robles, Mary Jo
 Sheehy, Jennifer & Andrew
 Shelley, Robin
 Silver Palm UMC
 South Dade Haitian Mission
 St. Luke's UMC at Windermere
 TD Charitable Foundation
 Zurfluh, Tatiana & Thomas

Between \$200 and \$499

Archer, Jennifer & John
 Baumberger, Molly & Charles
 Beasley, Katrina
 Bickings, Mary & Harold
 Burstein, Melisse & Mark
 Christensen, Peter
 Church Women United in South Dade
 Cross, Margaret
 Cruz, Geraldo de la
 Cruz, Karlana de la
 Eloissaint, Kettlene
 Encarnacion, Shirley
 First UMC Homestead UMW
 Furniss-Roe, Tina & Robert
 GAP Foundation

Continued on Page 5

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Between \$200 and \$499, continued from Page 4

Haas, Martha
Harris Chapel UMC
Hatfield, Judith & Robert
Herriott, Paula & Arthur
Hickey, Raquel R.
Hill, Isabelle & Smith, Frank
Jefferson, John
John S. & James L. Knight
Foundation
Jordan, Sherry & Harry
Kasischke, Maureen & Grant
Killian Pines UMC Women
King, Charles & Diane
Knofsky, Jodie
Ladner, Sharyn & Robert
Lancaster, Joe
Liddell, Ellis Darren
Lockhart, Estelle & Robin
Manning, Sheryl J.
Moreno, Christopher
Navarro, Fanny
Nitti, Louis & Valerie
Oppenheimer, Ellen & Douglas
Pike, Bonnie & Walter
Pinella, Carlos
Plaza Tire & Auto Center
Poshard, Karen
Prasad, Prestin
Raine, Denise
Rey-Corde, Natalie
Roberts, Patricia & Robert
Ross, Arturo
Ross, Sandy
Sanchez-Llorens, Migna
Schwedel, David A.
Shank, Meribeth & Arden
Smith, Patricia
St. John's On The Lake First UMC
Tellam, Leanne & Douglas
Temple Beth Am
Touzets, Carlos
Tuttle, Lidia & Richard
Um, Mike Minkook
Verla International Ltd
Ward, Mary Susan & Philip
Whitmyre, Linda
Wine, Cynthia & Steve
Winkeljohn, Liza & Paul
WtW Clients

Up to \$199

Alexander, Eugenia
Allen, Jane
Allen, Robin Jackson & Robin

Ambury, Judy & Paul
Anonymous
Aquarius Press
Baggesen, Walter
Ballard, Kathleen
Bank of America United Way
Campaign
Banos, Jhosvany & Gomez, Mirta
Barcia, Daniel
Barquist, Erik
Batey, Betty
Beauchamp, Nathan
Betancourt, Jefferson
Bodenhamer, Karen
Bostrom, Shannon
Boulus, Michael
Brant, Marlen
Brophy, Doris & David
Burke, Marta & Boyd, Dan
Burke, Rosilyn
Cabrera, Elizabeth
Carlin, Michael Edward
Cedeno, Jessie Joanna
Cervantes, Victoria
Chili's
Christian, Teolinda
City of South Miami
Collie, Michele & Keith
Courtesy Property Management
Cowie, Winona
Crawford Sr, Joseph L.
Cutler Ridge UMC Women
Dammann, Jacqueline
Dare, Martha
Davidson, Keane McLean
Davis, Nancy & George
Depman, Darlene & Edward
Di Donato, Nadia
Diaz-Leal, Clara
Dilieto, Patricia
Dossett, Gloria & Edwin
Ductan, Sandra
Earnest, Margaret & Steele, Jordan
Ebbert, Marlin
Ebenezer UMC
Edwards, Denise
Edwins, Lynn & Wayne
Evans, Porpoise
Fazenbaker, Ednelor
Fernands, Rochelle & Stephen
Ferniza, Ambar
Ferris, Sabrina
Fink, Laura
Finn, Mary
First UMC of Miami
Fogarty, Zoraida & William

Ford, Sally Ann & Herb
Franco, Tara J. & Jose
Gaab, Marylen
Gallet, Mari
Gallop, Carmen
Galvin, Opal J.
Gator Wesley Foundation
Gerlander, Christine & Timothy
Getchell, Ken
Gibson, Patricia & James
Gilberts, Lars
Gilling, Katya
Gonzalez, Alex
Gordon, Vashti
Grant, Marcia
Greenwood, Lileth
Greist, Douglas
Griese, Mary Ann & Jeffrey
Grzybek-Jacobs, Christina
Guerry, Jean U.
Harris, Mildred & Wesley
Harrison, Isheka
Helweick, Anne & Charles
Heritage UMC
Hernandez, Alexandra
Heurnandez, Martha V.
Hill, Ron
Ho, Linda & William
Hofmeyer, Lacey
Hopps, Debby & Bob B.
Horman, Janet
Horne, Kelly King
Huggins, Amanda Ashby
Hugh, Dawn
Hursey, Geraldine
Iniguez, Eduardo R.
Irvin, Caroline
Johnson, Carly
Jones, Evelyn
Jordan, Juana
Karen Raben
Kelly, Tina & William
Kendall UMC
King, Candace & James
Krarup, Nick
Le Blanc, Elizabeth
Lewis, Eugene
Lifesong United Methodist Church
Lopez, Raul
Lorenzini, Kathryn
Marsh, Tanya Franchi
Maze, Steven A.
McCarty, Carol & Gene
McCarty, Megan
McCauley, Jill & William

Continued on Page 6

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Up to \$199, cont'd from Page 5

McClermon, Robert
 McDowell, Suzan
 Mehta, Eileen Ball
 Memorial UMC
 Metzker, Peggy
 Milhomme, Elizee
 Milledge, Brother
 Mohr, Kevin Bowles
 Morales, Nelida & Felix
 Morelock, Katrina
 Moure, Almalee & Edwin
 Murray, Margo
 Nagle, Roberta & Edward
 Neil, Judith Pauline
 New Affinity Concepts Corp
 Osmann, Emmanuel
 Owen, Pat
 Palm Springs UMC
 Pannier, Carolyn & Paul
 Parker, Rosalie & Garth
 Perez, Elba
 Perez, Nancy & Daniel
 Perez-Abreu, Carlos
 Phillips, Simone E.
 Phillips, Trudiann
 Pierre-Philippe, Karty
 Pinnock, Ivy & Lilla
 Pobletts, Elsie M.
 Poshard, Deanna & Keith
 Prasad, Akash

Prentice, Lillian & Robert
 Professional Presence of FL, Inc.
 Quinn, Margaret & Michael
 Raley, Claire F.
 Ralsten-Cox, Johanna
 Rattigan-Grey, Esmine
 Reinert, Kay & Bradley
 Reneau, Jeanette
 Richardson, Patricia
 Robinson, Carolyn Ruth
 Rodriguez, Fredy
 Roper, Margaret
 Ross, Audrey
 Ross, Larry W.
 Roy, Alina
 Sampson, Marshall
 Santa Crus, Maritza & Claudio
 Santiago, Esther & Isolina
 Smiley, Dorothy
 Smith, Jacqueline & McGregor
 Soto, Lydia
 Spruce, Susan
 Spurgeon, Abby
 Sullivan, Joanne
 Sutton, Karen & Wayne
 Tai, Max
 Taylor, Hillary
 Teagarden, Rebecca & Robin
 Thomas, Aislynn & McDonald,
 William Scott
 Thornburg, Ashley & Robert

Torres, Mical
 Toussaint, Amanda
 Truhlar, Sherry
 Turner, Selen & Andrew
 Ugarte, Carlos
 Van Gundy, Cynthia & William
 Vance, Tammy
 Vellmet, Fritz
 Vosburgh, Tina
 Warren, Audrey & Soto, Jose Luis
 Watts, Nancy & Dean
 Waxman, Robert
 West, Charles
 West, Mary
 White, David
 Whittingham, Hyacinth
 Wilfredo Rodriguez PA
 Williams, Jill & James
 Williams, Mindy M.
 Williams, Peggy
 Winslow, Amy & David
 Witcher, Ericka & Brian
 Wong, Alice
 Wood, Thomas
 Wright, Katrina
 Zapletal, Billy
 Zapletal, Laurie A.

Gifts through the 2013 Give Day of The Miami Foundation

Bell, Trish
 Bell, Dan
 Anonymous
 Armstrong, Kim & Daniel
 Ault, Donald Gregory
 Becker, Kathryn Nan
 Beddow, Megan
 Blanco, Cristina
 Bostrom, Elizabeth
 Burdette, William R.
 Burton, Linda
 Castilla, Ana
 Clark, Richard
 Deppman, Ed
 Gaab, Marylen
 Greist, Douglas
 Graham, Eric
 Hector, Nancy T.

Herris, Mindy
 Kidwell, Aundrey
 Kowalski, Kathleen
 Ladner, Robert
 Lumpkin, Cristina Arana
 Marcellini, Gayle
 Mas, Cristina
 McCarty, Megan
 McLaughlin, Brent
 Mehta, Eileen Ball
 Meyers, Bobbi
 Mitchell-James, Carol Anne
 Moon, Jennifer
 Moreno, Christopher
 Morgan, Patricia & Richard
 Morris, Patrick G.
 Onsgard, Robert
 Orane, Andrea

Parker, John H.
 Pike, Isabelle
 Qualls, Pamela
 Reyes, Walter
 Rodriguez, Juan F.
 Rojas, Juan E.
 Romani, Barbara
 Rossmore, Carmen & Allan
 Shoaf, Diane
 Sotsky, Jonathan
 Ugarte, Carlos
 Van Wyck, George
 Vidal, Cristina
 Villalba, Victoria
 West, Charles
 Whitmyre, Linda
 Zapletal, Laurie A.

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Gifts in Honor of

- Branches Kids from Paula Herriot
- Brent McLaughlin from Joseph L. Crawford, Sr.
- Douglas H. Peel from Jan Harrison Peel
- Eddy Barros' father from Winona Cowie
- Jasmine Baldwin from Marcia Grant
- Kim King Torres from Kelly King Horne
- Megan Beddow from Johanna Ralsten-Cox
- Phil and Linda Corey from Rev. Durwood Foshee
- "Pops" Onsgard from Tanya Franchi Marsh
- Rev. Dr. Marta Burke from Deborah Hopps
- Robert Furniss-Roe from Nadia Di Donato

Donors through United Way Campaign

- Anonymous
- Charles West
- Liza Winkeljohn
- Margarita Pardo
- Marjorie Lima
- Raquel R. Hickey
- Ricardo Garbati
- Rob Bowlby
- Rodney Bell
- Steve D. Nivet

Gift were received

- **In memory of** Vesta Rhodes from Church Women United in South Dade
- **For the birthday of** Dominic Diaz from Grandma Lydia Soto

In-Kind Gifts

- Alma - hosting and sponsorship of the Branches Florida City Christmas Party 2013
- Aquarius Press - 6,000 Thanksgiving flyers
- ARAMARK - variety of school supplies and cleaning supplies for Branches Lakeview
- BB&T - 7 tickets in the BB&T suite and parking pass for the Xtreme Christian Music Fest on January 18 & 19, 2014 at the BB&T Center.
- Becker, Kathryn Nan - one \$50 Publix Gift card for a Branches Family
- Bell, Rodney - HP Color LaserJet 2840 Printer for Branches South Miami
- Bi-Lo Holdings/Winn-Dixie - \$500 Winn Dixie Gift Card and 50 - \$25 gift cards for Branches Florida City families
- Carbonell, Janet -10 pairs of gently used dress women's shoes for Branches youth
- Carnival Foundation - Cruise for 2 used as prize for the 2013 Fritz & Franz Oktoberfest
- Del Valle, Mario Luis - 288 cases (total of 3,456 bottles) of NUWI quinoa smoothie drinks.
- Fulford UMC Women - school supplies (pencils, markers, paper, scissors, glue, etc.) for the use of Branches Fulford.
- Gibraltar Private Bank & Trust - breakfast and meeting space for Branches directors meeting November 19, 2013
- Goya Foods - 4 cases of beans and 60 bags of rice for Haitian families served by Branches
- Hursey-McLaughlin, Karen & Brent - Wii console, several games and 6-ft component video cable for Nintendo Wii
- Llorens, Karen - 5 boxes of vitamins
- Miami Marlins Ballpark Buddies - 60 tickets to 5/25 game; 80 tickets to 5/31 game; 220 tickets to 6/18 game and 80 tickets to 6/21 game
- Navarro, Fanny - 5 recreation balls, sacks for racing, jump ropes, and hula hoops
- Olson, Pam & Chris - assortment of baby toys
- Pike, Isabelle - 32 boxes of Valentine's Day chocolates for Branches Lakeview students
- Quirch Foods Co. - 45 Halloween costumes
- Rodriguez-Vazquez, Georgette - 2013 Christmas for one Branches South Miami family
- Ross, Cory - Christmas toys for a family served by the Center for Financial Stability
- Soto, Schwartz, Jonathan - Paid for kayaking fee for 16 Branches Fulford youth in May
- Soto, Jose Luis - 3 hours of graphic design services for the 2014 MLK Day of Service.
- State Farm South Florida - 360 toys for Branches children and youth for Christmas
- Trident Surfacing, Inc. - Materials and labor (including supervision) to resurface the flooring of the former sanctuary area
- Ugarte, Carlos - Audio Visual services and use of equipment during the Branches Florida City Groundbreaking in February
- UM William R. Butler Center - Volunteer Day and a giant cork board for Branches South Miami
- Valerio, Omar - IT Services for Branches South Miami
- Wood, Thomas - 2 tickets for each UM baseball game on 3-26-2014 and 4-2-2014
- Zapletal, Laurie A - Decorated Christmas Tree
- Zinn, Curran & Marcelo - Sennheiser Headphones HD 280 PRO

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2013 Christmas Sponsorship of Branches Fulford students and/or families:

Adiren, Perry	Helmy, Marize & Joey	Naoma
Antonio	Hinton, Katie	Pastor Ray
Awad, Nirvana	Ireen	Peticco, Arnaldo
Boctor, Laura	Juras, Ella	Route, Jack
Bohren, MaryEllen	Kidwell, Audrey	Shenouda, Ellen
Caplow, Ted	Makkar, Mike	Vellmet, Fritssohn
Fear, Victoria	Maniscalco, Nelson	Vogt, Becca
Filibes, Catherine	Moawad, Mirella	Waltz, Brittany
Guindi, Enas	Moawad, Mirna	Wright, Renee
Guindi, Enas	Montgomery, Laura	Youssef, Simone
Guindi, Lara	Ms. Millie	

2013 Thanksgiving Meal Delivery Food Donations

- AAA Auto Club South - 89.59 lbs of Mashed Potatoes, Instant Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans & Chicken Broth
- BE Aerospace - 360 lbs of Turkey
- Branches United Methodist Mission - 63.42 lbs of Mashed Potatoes, Instant Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans & Chicken Broth
- City National Bank - 111.29 lbs of Mashed Potatoes, Instant Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans & Chicken Broth
- Coconut Grove Montessori School - 111.15 lbs of Mashed Potatoes, Instant Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans & Chicken Broth
- Curves of Palmetto Bay - 14.39 lbs of Mashed Potatoes, Instant Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans, & Chicken Broth
- First UMC Homestead - 49.78 lbs of Mashed Potatoes, Instant Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans & Chicken Broth
- First UMC of Miami - 126.55 lbs of Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans, Chicken Broth & instant stuffing
- Florida International University South Campus - 24.19 lbs of Mashed Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans, & Chicken Broth
- Fulford UMC - 39.97 lbs of Mashed Potatoes, Instant Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans & Chicken Broth
- Goya Foods of Florida - 1,348.5 lbs of cut green beans
- Great Florida Bank HQ - 238.66 lbs of Mashed Potatoes, Instant Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans & Chicken Broth
- Harris Chapel UMC - 150.92 lbs of Mashed Potatoes, Instant Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, & Green Beans
- Image Photo Services - 21.46 lbs of Mashed Potatoes, Instant Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce,
- Green Beans & Chicken Broth
- Kendall UMC - 77.79 lbs of Mashed Potatoes, Instant Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans & Chicken Broth
- New Jerusalem Primitive Baptist Church - 187.72 lbs of Mashed Potatoes, Instant Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans, & Chicken Broth
- Office Of Commissioner Marc D. Sarnoff - Milam's Market gift certificate for 5 frozen turkeys + 5 frozen hams and 4 Milam's Market gift certificates worth \$25 each
- Office Xpress - 12 turkeys and food drive for 2013 Thanksgiving
- Palmer Trinity Private School, Inc. - 1,159.78 lbs of Mashed Potatoes, Instant Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans & Chicken Broth
- State Farm South Florida - 74.58 lbs of Mashed Potatoes, Instant Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans & Chicken Broth
- Temple Israel of Greater Miami - 245.52 lbs of Mashed Potatoes, Instant Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans & Chicken Broth
- The Growing Place of FUMCCG - 358.88 lbs of Mashed Potatoes, Instant Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans & Chicken Broth
- United Way of Miami-Dade - 434.95 lbs of Mashed Potatoes, Instant Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans & Chicken Broth



Grow, Climb...

Growing Young Minds; Real Change, Real Impact.

Martine Marcelin is Branches' current Grow and Climb Program Manager at the Lakeview Campus, and has overcome many obstacles to get to where she is today. Martine emigrated from Haiti when she was very young, and grew up at Branches Florida City. This is where she learned English, made friends, was encouraged to apply to a magnet middle school program that launched her journey through a competitive high school, and ultimately graduated from Florida Southern College, with the support of the George W. Jenkins Scholarship.

Martine was hired to launch the Grow program at the Branches Community Center in August of 2013 and determined that 23 of the 25 students who came to the program were reading below grade level. As a result, the Branches team is focusing on reading and comprehension. One of the children named Dennis, a 2nd Grader, came to the program unable to read. Dennis was struggling in school and could not do any of his homework. He was frustrated, discouraged and negative, and was very much a challenge for our staff.

Martine engaged Dennis' father to help Dennis at home. He responded, "I don't know how to help him, I'm only a truck driver and I can't read." His parents didn't know how to help him because both his mother and father do not read their native Creole, yet alone English. Martine decided to tackle Dennis' issue head on. After only 3 months of intense tutoring, Dennis' confidence increased tremendously, his temperament improved and he learned to read! By the end of the school year, Dennis was able to complete all of his assignments on his own. Martine and Dennis are pictured below.

Grow & Climb Program Impact

- 94% of Branches students maintained or increased their grades in the last school year.
- 100% of Branches' High School seniors graduate from High School
- Historically, 88% of Branches' High School graduates pursue a post-secondary education.
- 19 Branches students are currently attending College. Another 10 students will enter College this Fall.



The Power of Camp, x 3!

Branches emphasizes the importance of education in everything we do, but sometimes, our kids just need to have some good ole' fashioned fun! Branches' 2014 Spring Break OASIS Camp *Turnt Up* was another amazing week for over 200 youth, filled with friends, fellowship and self-discovery.

In addition, 70 of our students were able to attend the United Methodist Summer Camp Ministry at Warren Willis in Fruitland Park, FL, thanks to the generous support from Trish and Dan Bell. For many of our students, this is the first or only time they travel to leave their own community and create lasting positive memories and experiences.

Summer Shade camp is also currently serving over 200 children at all four Branches sites, providing them with a safe, enriching and loving place to spend their summer break. Thank you to all the generous donors and volunteers who help to make this camp a reality!



Warren Willis campers packaging meals for hungry families.



Branches hires and trains a select group of its youth to serve as Summer Guides for our Summer Shade camp each year. 25 proud Guides pictured above!



Summer Shade Cuteness!

...Achieve!

The Branches Family Festival for Financial Stability

Branches was one of a select few non-profit organizations which was chosen as a 2013-2014 partner by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Miami® program. Team Generation Miami partnered with Branches for their project and this amazing group of young professionals simply went above and beyond to make a lasting impact in our community. Besides renovating the entire Branches Lakeview Sanctuary, revamping several other spaces, tutoring our kids and providing basketball hoops and other resources, Generation Miami also organized a wonderful free event on Saturday, April 12th, 2014 for the Lakeview community, the Family Festival for Financial Stability.

Dozens of vendors came out to the Festival to provide financial resources and fun activities, including Apprisen, Burger King, HistoryMiami, Miami Dolphins, Miami Marlins, Pollo Tropical, Regions Bank, Zoo Miami and many others. Branches provided free tax prep on-site and even Florida Rep. Jose Javier Rodriguez and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jean Monestime attended the event. The Miami-Dade County Office of the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners even proclaimed April 12th to be Generation Miami Day! In addition, Generation Miami awarded a \$2,500 College Support Fund gift to one of Branches' high school seniors, and a \$1,000 Family Support Fund gift to one of Branches Lakeview's families. It was a truly fun and festive event and is sure to be back in April 2015!



Generation Miami with Branches Florida City High School Senior Santos Calderon

Achieve Program Impact

- 86% of adults who complete a financial stability plan increase income, reduce debt or improve their credit score or a combination thereof.
- The Ways to Work program provides working families who have poor credit with a low interest car loan. Cars obtained through the national Ways to Work program have helped 94% of borrowers improve their employment circumstances. In addition, about half of all borrowers attribute a reduction in lateness and missed days of work to the car they obtained through the program.
- Branches' Ways to Work program has proudly provided 104 loans to local families to purchase a reliable used vehicle.

Proudly Leading the VITA Free Tax Prep Service

Branches is proud to have received the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) grant from the Department of Treasury and IRS to facilitate and promote high quality free tax preparation in Miami-Dade by engaging and training partners, equipping volunteers and educating the general public. VITA helps individuals apply for the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit which lifts more Americans out of poverty than any other program. In Miami-Dade County, the IRS estimates that 20 percent who qualify aren't claiming it.

The community-wide collaboration had 23 partners, hosting 36 VITA sites which offered individuals and families making \$52,000 or less free, high quality tax preparation. Along with its many partners, Branches successfully e-filed 6,024 electronic returns during the 2014 tax season, securing over \$7.6 million in tax refunds. In addition, over 150 individuals making \$58,000 or less received instructions on how to do their own taxes through the Facilitated Self Assistance website at myfreetaxes.com/uwcfs. Branches' main office located at 11500 NW 12th Ave will remain open through October 15, 2014 to assist with any tax issues.

Many of Branches clients expressed deep appreciation for the tax preparation services they received. Nina Castro, a 73-year-old retired nurse and widow, said: "It helps to not have to pay to get my taxes done. I take care of myself. I can use the money I save to buy the things I need. I'm very grateful. I'm looking forward to seeing you next year, Lord willing!"



VITA kick-off at Miami-Dade College.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Branches Selected as Miami HEAT Learn & Play Center

The Miami HEAT unveiled its 13th Miami HEAT Learn & Play Center on March 11th, 2014 at Branches, where HEAT players Michael Beasley and Greg Oden led a host of dignitaries alongside presenting sponsor and longtime HEAT community partner Florida Blue to reveal the newly renovated reading room and computer lab. The space was outfitted with new paint, wall graphics, Samsung Galaxy tablets, and furniture.

At the press conference, the name of the Branches site in North Miami was unveiled as the Trish and Dan Bell Family Branches Center – Lakeview Campus. The Bell Family is pictured below. After the press event, HEAT players, Branches Board Members and sponsors interacted with the Branches students in the new HEAT Learn & Play Center. It was an amazing day, and an unforgettable experience for everyone involved!



For more photos, visit
www.facebook.com/BranchesFL