

BRIDGE BUILDER

Spring 2015

From the Desk of the Director

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Mission Statement:

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

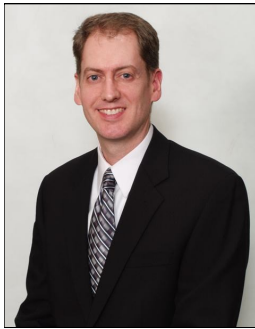
Get Involved:

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



A New Version of the Golden Rule...

Dear Friends,

I joined the team at Branches Fulford recently one afternoon. As the children arrived from school, I gladly agreed to be one of the tutors. As I sat down with Angela, it became apparent that she did not understand her homework – at all. It consisted of telling time on a traditional clock face. As we each stared at the page of clock faces, I knew that I could not just tell her the answers. So I quickly devised a lesson plan of sorts to help her understand the meaning of the long hand and the short hand and the numbers around the clock. This was not a quick and easy learning process seeing how she had a very limited understanding of telling time!? We even discussed the meaning of a.m. and p.m. (who knew telling time was so complex??).



But we slowly and methodically worked through each aspect of the clock face. After about 30 minutes, she was proudly telling me what time each clock revealed. She was thrilled with her accomplishment! But it had been so tempting at the start of our time together, to just give her the answers. After all, it would have been much easier, right? And Angela would have been no better as a result.

Thanks to the insightful leaders at the Ocean Reef Community Foundation, some of us from Branches recently had the opportunity to hear Robert Lupton speak on his most recent book, Toxic Charity. Mr. Lupton is a community development practitioner in Atlanta. He has devoted some 43 years living and serving in the inner city. As a result, he has many interesting things to share. I was particularly impressed with what he coined the Golden Rule of Service: *“Never do for others what they can do for themselves.”*

This ‘new version’ of the Golden Rule is truly at the heart of Branches’ mission. Each day we could simply provide the ‘answers’ to the students and the families that we serve, and in exchange they would not progress. Rather through our Grow, Climb and Achieve programs, Branches is creating opportunities for children and adults to improve their lives and circumstances through their own learning process. With the self-discovery that they have the capacity to master their homework or their finances or their small business, comes great joy, confidence and success!

Thank you to all our generous donors and partners for supporting Branches and our mission to empower children, youth and families in our community.

Living by the ‘new’ Golden Rule,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brent McLaughlin".

Brent McLaughlin
Executive Director



Branches students, with Director Kim Torres, feeling proud and accomplished!

Capital Campaign Update

The Trish and Dan Bell Family Branches Center - Florida City Campus Celebrates Grand Opening and Open House

Branches celebrated the official grand opening of the new Trish and Dan Bell Family Branches Center-Florida City Campus facility on Thursday, January 22, 2015. The Open House took place from 12pm to 6pm, with a formal program at 3:30pm with over 150 guests in attendance including several VIPs.

Branches Florida City, which provides holistic and long-term services to help families break the cycle of poverty through educational opportunities, was founded by the United Methodist Church and began very simply by serving 20 children over 20 years ago. Today the programs serve several hundred but the dream of serving even more children and families through a new facility has now become a reality. The new 11,000 square foot facility, built on land provided 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 features several classrooms, a recreation room, a computer lab, a covered patio space, a large multi-purpose room and space for a large playground. This facility also houses the United Way Center for Financial Stability of South Dade which will provide comprehensive financial coaching and trainings.

Trish and Dan Bell have anonymously supported 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, including support for this beautiful new facility.

Significant support for the Branches capital campaign has been provided by several key partners, including **Trish and Dan Bell, Himan Brown Charitable Trust, Sandy and Rod Bell, Nancy T. Hector, Agape, Patrick P. Lee Foundation, Miami Vineyard Community Church, St. Luke's UMC at Windermere, Helen's Hope Foundation, Ocean Reef Community Foundation, Gonzalez Family Foundation** as well as numerous individuals.



Above: Matt Forman of the Himan Brown Charitable Trust, The Bell Family, Harve Mogul of United Way of Miami-Dade, Brent McLaughlin, Executive Director, and Kim Torres, Director of Student Services.

Right: The new Trish and Dan Bell Family Branches Center!



THANK YOU for Growing Our Future!



Branches
Grow Deeper, Climb Higher

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

All donors from June 19, 2014—March 9, 2015 are listed at www.branchesfl.org/news/newsletters

A special thank you goes out to our premiere supporters:

* The Batchelor Foundation * Trish and Dan Bell * Chiny H. Chewing * The Children's Trust * Citi Foundation * Florida Conference UMC * General Board of Global Ministries * UMCOR * Helen's Hope Foundation * Miami-Dade County Public School * Miami-Dade County PHCD * The Miami Foundation * Ocean Reef Community Foundation/Taylor Fund * Patrick P. Lee Foundation * South Florida Regional Transportation Authority * St. Luke's UMC at Windermere * United Way of Broward County * United Way of Miami-Dade * The Urban Institute * Volunteer Florida

Thank You, Branches Sponsors & Stakeholders!

List includes contributions received by Branches from June 19, 2014 to March 9, 2015. 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
Chewning, H. Chiny
Citi
Florida Conference UMC
General Board of Global Ministries
UMCOR
Helen's Hope Foundation
Miami - Dade County PHCD
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Ocean Reef Community Foundation/
Taylor Fund
Patrick P. Lee Foundation
S. Florida Regional Transportation
Authority
St. Luke's UMC at Windermere
The Batchelor Foundation, Inc.
The Children's Trust of Miami Dade
The Miami Foundation
The Urban Institute
United Way Miami-Dade
United Way of Broward County
Volunteer Florida

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

Annie E. Casey Foundation
Aramark
Bank of America Charitable
Foundation
BankUnited
BB&T
Carnival Foundation
Florida Blue
Johnson, Sherry & Alex
Nextera Energy Foundation, Inc.
Rodriguez, Juan F.

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

Alabanza Evangelical Baptist
Church
Anonymous
Assurant Foundation
HSBC
Landon, Kirk
Molina Healthcare of Florida, Inc.
Regions Financial Corporation
The Darrell R. Windle Charitable
Fund

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

Anonymous (2)
AXA Foundation
Bi-Lo Winn-Dixie
Bilzin Sumberg
BNY Mellon Wealth Management
Book, Ronald L.
Bostrom, Shannon
Brown Mackie College - Miami
Burton, Linda

Center for Social Change
City National Bank
Cummins, Kary
Foote, Anderson M & Anita V
Furniss-Roe, Tina & Robert
Goya Foods of Florida
Greater Miami Chamber of
Commerce
Hector, Nancy T.
Horman, Janet
Houlberg, Steve & Robin
Howard, Kathy & Scott
Hursey-McLaughlin, Karen & Brent
Jones, Bill & Hernandez, Reinaldo
Ladner, Sharyn & Robert
Mandarin UMC
Massey, Paula (Bonnie)
McAllister, Marie S. & Maynard M.
Memorial UMC
Mercantil Commercebank, NA
Moore Stephens Lovelace
New Jerusalem Primitive Baptist
Church
Onsgard, Robert
Pike, Isabelle
Pruitt, Jonah & Judy
Publix Charities
Roberts, Patricia & Robert
Staples, Inc.
Suntrust Foundation
Toshiba
Tunnessen, Jo Ann & Jim
VITAS Hospice Services, LLC
Ward, Mary Susan & Philip
Ways to Work
Williams, Teri

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

Anonymous (3)
Beddow, Megan
Bennett, Erma
Bill Ussery Motors
Bostrom, Kathy & Phil
Bowlby, Sarah
Calvary United Protestant
Campo, Joseph Louis
Chester UMC
Church Women United in South
Dade
Cole, Jane H
Cross, Margaret
Gordon Food Service
Heggen, Betty & Arthur
Herriott, Paula & Arthur
Horne, Kelly King
Huizenga, H. Scott
Hurtado, Elyse
Irvin, Caroline
Jefferson, John
John S. & James L. Knight Fdtn
Kelly, Robert
Key Biscayne Community Fodtn
King, Charles & Diane
Merritt, Patsy & Al
Morgan, Michael W & Elaine W
Open House Ministries, Inc.
Paredes-Robinson, Sandra C.
Phillips, Trudiann

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Between \$200 and \$499, continued from Page 3

Poshard, Karen
Redland Community UMC
Spencer, Mary M.
The Gabelites
Thomas, Gillian Mary
Watts, Nancy & Dean
White, Craig
Wilson, Akiko J.
Wine, Cynthia & Steve
Young, Marjorie Ann
Zapletal, Laurie A.

Up to \$199

Adams-Hove, J. Ann
Alexander, Eugenia
Allen, Carol & Kendall
Allen, James
AmazonSmile Foundation
Anonymous (15)
Ault, Cindy & Greg
Baggesen, Walter
Bains, Brandon
Bardsley, Mary Catherine
Barry, Robert
Baurichter, Dalia & Anthony
Beatty, Matthew
Becker, Kathryn Nan
Bender, Eva
Bennett, Rose Stukenberg
Bickings, Mary & Harold
Blitch, Dale & Dianne
Bodin, Carrie & Amory
Boger, Amber
Bostrom, David
Bostrom, Elizabeth
Brewster, Rashawn
Bunten, Helen
Calderon, Elmar W
Calvo, Leila
Carrasquillo, Mary
Carter, Patsy B & Garney E
Cetta, Susana
Collie, Michele & Keith
Corliss, MJ
Counsellor, Marlise & Donald
Cowie, Winona
Crawford, Nancy
Cruzpino, Cristina
Cutler Ridge UMC
Dammann, Jacqueline
Dare, Martha
Davis, Nancy & George
Dempsey, Barbara
Deppman, Darlene & Edward
Diaz, Jacqueline Barrios
Diaz, Javier
Dulaney, Sabrina

Espinosa, Bessy K.
Etzler, Judith A.
Fazenbaker, Ednelidor
Ferdinandy, Jorge
FicKes, Peggy
Fields, Lynette
Fink, Elizabeth
Ford, Melisa & Bruce
Gaab, Marylen
Gair, Janice & Stephen
Galvin, Opal J.
Gill, Anna
Godfrey, Faye Spillers
Greater Miami Caterers, Inc.
Greenaway, Lynette
Grillo, Claudia A.
Grzybek-Jacobs, Christina
Gutierrez, Diane
Haas, Martha
Hardison, Melanie
Helweick, Anne & Charles
Hernandez, Alexandra
Hill, Isabelle & Smith, Frank
Ho, Linda & William
Hoak, Debi
Hopps, Debby & Bob B.
Hout, Amy
Huggins, Avid and Amanda
Jameson, Denise & Dimitri
Judy, Peggy
Jockel, Helmut G.
Johnson, Carmen
Joseph, Julene
Kahn, Grace D. and Barry A.
Karen Raben
Kimbrough, Tracy
Klippel, Mary
Kramer, Darlene R & Robert L.
Laguna, Ana & Miguel
Landis, Carolyn & Wendell
Lean, Karen
Liddell, Ellis Darren
Litmon, Quanda L.
Marcelin, Martine & Gary
Marcellini, Gayle & Eduardo
Maze, Steven A.
McDaniel, Dixie & Andrade, Eduardo
McKinley, Leslie & Scott
McLaughlin, Janet & Bill
Mehta, Eileen Ball
Melchior, EL or Julienne
Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay
Messina, Jennifer
Moore, Amanda May
Morales, Stacy & Omar
Moreno, Ana
Moye, Tracey & James
Murff, Kay & William
Murray, Margo

Neil, Judith Pauline
Newsome, Sharon L.
Nitti, Louis & Valerie
Norell, Robin
Obispo, Marina Obispo & Matute,
Hernan R
Oliveira, Erica Kay
Ortiz, Jacqueline & Lauterio
Osmann, Emmanuel
Pacouloute, Guillot
Padron, Lourdes & Orlando
Pannier, Carolyn & Paul
Parker, Judith & Robin
Peel, Jan Harrison
Perez, Lilliam & Roberto
Perez, Nancy & Daniel
Pinnock, Ivy & Lilla
Pobletts, Elsie M.
Poshard, Deanna & Keith
Prasad, Prestin
Providence UMC
Providence UMC Langdon Circle
Rainey, Denise
Ramirez, Rene & Magda
Reneau, Jeanette
Reyes, Milady & Fidel
Rezola, Vanessa
Robinson, James
Rocap, Jennifer L & George P
Rodriguez Family
Ron, Karina
Roper, Margaret
Ruiz, Cesar A.
Salt, Phyllis
Sanchez, Ana & Julio
Sands, Cornelia & Oswald
Santiago, Esther & Isolina
Schotthoefer, Linda
Schwartz, Annemarie
Sheppard, Mary
Siegel, Richard
Smith, Jacqueline & McGregor
South East District of the UMC
Spahn, Eva M.
Spruce, Susan & Jones, Annette
Spruill, Alicia
Sullivan, Joanne
Sutton, Karen & Wayne
Swan Karin & Alan, Jr.
Swan, Mary & Alan

Continued on Page 5

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Up to \$199, continued from Page

4

Tabois, Patricia & Owen
Taylor, Hillary
Tellam, Leanne & Doug
Thornhill, Kaleb
Trout, David & Marie
Trueba, Joe
Turcios, Paula
Ugarte, Carlos
Van Gundy, Cynthia & William
Van Wyck, George
Vandehei, Clara & Donald
Vosburgh, Tina
Wagner, Kristopher G.
Wilhite, Nancy & Lewis
Williams, Jill & James
Wood, Thomas
Woodbury, Holly

Gifts in Honor of

- Audrey Warren from Peggy Jeudy
- Branches AmeriCorps Team

- from Leanne Tellam
- Eric & Lucy Ashby from Avid & Amanda Huggins
- Frank Smith & Isabelle Hill from Susan Spruce & Annette Jones
- Isabelle Pike from Holly Woodbury
- Jairo Gomez from Eva Bender
- Kim King Torres from Kelly King Horne
- Kim King Torres from Rose Stukenberg Bennett
- Megan & Shannon Bostrom from David Bostrom
- Megan & Shannon Bostrom from Melanie Hardison
- Pastor Diane R. Gutierrez of Silver Palm UMC from Faye Spillers Godfrey
- Sandy and Rod Bell from Susana Cetta

- The Taylor Family from Hilary Taylor
- Trish and Dan Bell from Gillian Mary Thomas

Gift in Memory of

- Chuck Burton from Linda Burton
- Gaye Johnson from Karin & Alan Swan, Jr.
- Johanna Mayer from Jennifer Messina

Donors through United Way Campaign

- Anonymous (3)
- Bowlby, Rob
- Nivet, Steven D.
- West, Charles

Gifts through the 2013 Give Day of The Miami Foundation

Bell, Trish
Bell, Dan
The Miami Foundation
Anonymous (2)
Armstrong, Kim & Daniel
Becker, Kathryn Nan in honor of Kim Torres
Benditte, Gabriele & Reinhard
Brown, Pamela in honor of my mother Mary M. Brown
Castilla, Ana
Cervantes, Victoria in honor of courage
Charity Services Centers/ Burdette, William
Deppman, Ed
Fernandez, Pedro
Fernandez-Guzman, Carlos in honor of Pacific National Bank
Fickess, Jordan
Fink, Elizabeth
Fitzpatrick, Jonathan

Francois, Krystina
Furniss-Roe, Tina & Robert
Gaab, Marylen
Graham, Eric
Greist, Douglas
Hickey, Raquel R.
Hudson, Christina
Hulbert, James
Hursey-McLaughlin, Karen
Jones, William J.
Knofsky, Jodie
Koch, Deborah
Liddell, Ellis Darren
Lima, Marjorie
Lumpkin, Cristina Arana
Marlins Ayudan Fund/ Blanco, Cristina in honor of courage
McDougle, Patricia & Dennis
Meyers, Bobbi

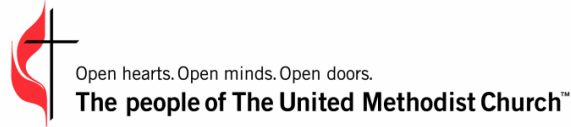
Moore, Antonina in honor of Nyya Toussaint
Morgan, Patricia
Orane, Andrea in honor of Kathryn Becker
Parker, John H.
Pastor, Grace
Pike, Isabelle in honor of courage
Pruitt, Jonah III
Qualls, Pamela
Rainey, Denise
Roses, Gloria Romero
Ross, Sandra
Schwedel, Maria
Shoaf, Diane
Sotsky, Jonathan
Spahn, Eva M. in honor of courage
Toussaint, Nyya in honor of Kim & Ray Torres
Toussaint, Romy in honor of Nyya Toussaint
Tullis, Tammy
Zapletal, Laurie A.



Thanksgiving Success!

14th Annual Thanksgiving Meal Event Breaks All Records!

A HUGE Thank You to our premiere *Thanksgiving Day Sponsors* for their generous support and making this special day possible:



The Batchelor Foundation



Thanks to the efforts of our amazing donors and volunteers, Branches provided 5,843 meals to individuals in need on Thanksgiving Day 2014! Over 1,100 volunteers helped cook, package and deliver these meals at 8 sites throughout Miami-Dade and Broward counties.

Due to the generosity of hundreds of caring individuals, we were able to make a lasting impact in the lives of thousands of people in need. Along with a hot, delicious Thanksgiving meal, clients also received a very important resource pamphlet containing information about emergency assistance and public benefit programs.

A Big Thank You also goes out to Goya Foods of Florida, HSBC, Mercantil Commercebank, New Jerusalem Primitive Baptist Church, Jim & JoAnn Tunnessen, United Way of Miami-Dade, VITAS Hospice Services and Winn Dixie for their generous support as *Thanksgiving Sponsors*!

Thank you as well to the individuals and organizations for being official *Thanksgiving Supporters*: City National Bank, Gordon Food Service and Moore Stephens Lovelace. Thank you also to Chase Bank and the Miami Marlins Foundation for their in-kind contributions.



Volunteers cutting Pumpkins Pies.

Volunteer Drivers off to make deliveries.

Happy Branches kids enjoying their meal!

A special THANK YOU to our incredible Food Drive Partners!

AAA Auto Club South, Allen Chapel AME, Assurant, B/E Aerospace, Capital Bank, Coconut Grove Montessori, Curves of Palmetto Bay, Faith in the City, First United Methodist Church (UMC) of Coral Gables, Fuzion Ministries AD, The Growing Place, Harris Chapel, Image Photo Services, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, Johnson & Wales, Kendall UMC & Preschool, Kingdom Faith Global Ministries, Lennar Commercial, Mad Studios, Miami Vineyard Community Church, Miramar UMC, Norland UMC, Office Xpress, Palmer Trinity School, Peace UMC, Perrine Peters UMC, Poinciana UMC, Redland UMC, Regions Bank, Surf Gvng, Trinity Episcopal, Unity On The Bay and Village Pines.



Branches
Grow Deeper, Climb Higher

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Organization
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MIAMI, FL
Permit No. 2893

11500 NW 12th Ave, Miami, Florida 33168

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Save the Date

12th Annual

BRANCHES' BLACK TIE & BLUE JEANS BENEFIT DINNER & AUCTION

"Providing a Place for All..."

Friday May 1st, 2015
Trump National Doral

Featuring the 1st Annual Trish and Dan Bell Community Empowerment Award!

Philanthropic Chairs	Gala Co-Chairs	Master of Ceremonies
Trish & Dan Bell	Marielena Villamil Laurie Zapletal	Mark Trowbridge

For details about this event, please visit www.branchesfl.org/benefitdinner