

BRIDGE BUILDER

Summer 2015

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Summer Shade Guides: Employing Our Youth - Page 2
- Black Tie & Blue Jeans Benefit Dinner - Page 3
- Donor Thank You - Page 4-7
- Grow, Climb...- Page 8
- ...Achieve! - Page 9
- Thanksgiving Meal Delivery - Page 10



Mission Statement:

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

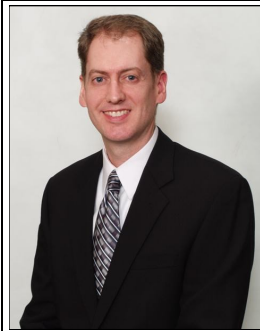
Get Involved:

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



Summer Jobs + Youth = Personal and Economic GROWTH

Dear Friends,

In late July, I attended The Beacon Council's One Community One Goal report to the community. The meeting was attended by over 500 community leaders and was focused on the economic progress of our community. In one report developed by JPMorgan Chase, it was noted that many of our residents are not benefitting from the economic growth in Miami-Dade County. For example, the highest rate of unemployment at 27.4% is among young people ages 16 – 19. This is more than five times the overall unemployment rate!

When young people do not have the opportunity to gain work experience, they lose much more than a paycheck. They miss out on learning about critical job and life skills such as interviewing, taking personal responsibility, self-discipline, showing up on time, customer awareness (needs of others), and so much more.

In the summer of 2000 at Branches, we hired one youth to serve alongside our summer staff providing enrichment programs for children. We layered in additional training and support so that this youth would not just show up for a job but would experience substantial personal growth. It was such a success that we now refer to it as the 'Summer Guide' paid internship program for Branches' youth. We are indeed blessed to have many generous donors who have enabled us to expand each year. This past summer we hired a record 40 youth across our four sites to serve as Summer Guides.

Besides getting paid for their efforts, they discover much about themselves. It is hard work as they participate in all aspects of our summer day camp from 7:30 a.m. set-up to end of the day clean-up and all things in between. One of the youth commented that being a Summer Guide "was a fresh start for me because I had the chance to be a true leader. It has made me feel good." Another stated, "If I keep putting my mind to something, I learned that I can accomplish a lot!"

In total, Branches paid our Summer Guides \$44,980 this summer. This is a small fraction of our budget but a huge investment in young lives setting them up to be successful in the future. Thank you for your support of Branches as together we create life-changing opportunities for those we serve!

With Hope and Gratitude,

Brent McLaughlin
Executive Director



Summer Guides leading summer camp programming, and serving as role models.

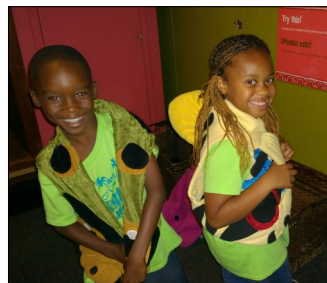
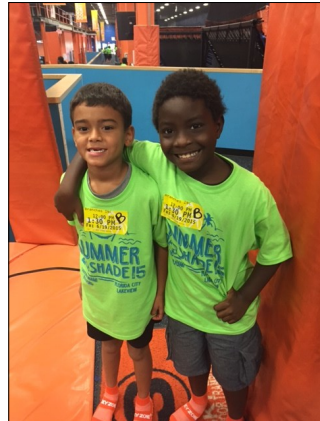
Branches Happenings

Summer Shade Guides: Employing Our Youth

Thanks to the generous support from our donors, Branches' Summer Shade Camp is providing a safe, fun and caring environment for over 400 children this summer! Each day throughout the summer the children practice math and reading through new and exciting lessons and enrichment activities. This helps to prevent summer learning loss and ensures that all Branches students will be ready for the next grade and ready to learn come the new school year.

In addition to making sure that our children have a fun and memorable summer, we are also providing real opportunities to some very real and deserving role models. Branches is very proud to be employing 40 of our youth this summer to serve as Summer Guides, a.k.a. camp counselors, to lead all the activities of our summer programming. Branches' staff and AmeriCorps members provide full support, but this employment offers our guides a chance to build their resume, learn employable skills, practice leadership and of course to earn some money.

Branches understands the value of hiring our youth! Our entire community must come together to support our youth and provide them with opportunities to help them grow and achieve long-term success in life. Thank you to all the dedicated funders of our Climb youth program for believing in our ability to affect change, and most importantly, for believing in our kids.



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

All donors from March 10, 2015—July 31, 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 * The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade * Shelley Daniel and Larry Rutherford * Florida Conference UMC * Florida United Methodist Foundation * Helen's Hope Foundation * Internal Revenue Service * Miami-Dade County Public Schools * Miami-Dade County PHCD * The Miami Foundation * Ocean Reef Community Foundation * Patrick P. Lee Foundation * Peacock Foundation * Publix Charities * South Florida Regional Transportation Authority * St. Luke's UMC at Windermere * United Way of Miami-Dade * United Way of Broward County * Volunteer Florida

Branches Happenings

Black Tie & Blue Jeans Benefit Dinner and Auction

Branches celebrated its' 12th Annual Black Tie & Blue Jeans benefit dinner and auction on Friday, May 1st, 2015 at the Trump National Doral. Over 400 guests attended and helped to raise over \$350,000 for Branches' programs which provide services and life-changing opportunities to low-income children, youth and families focused on long-term success.

The event was co-chaired by Gala Chairs Mrs. Marielena Villamil and Ms. Laurie Zapletal and 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, led by MC and Auctioneer Mr. Mark Trowbridge. The event also honored Trish and Dan Bell for their long-time and generous support of Branches, featuring the 1st Annual Trish and Dan Bell Community Empowerment Award. All proceeds from the appeal of that evening supported Branches' Summer Shade Camp and all donations will be doubled since they are matched \$1:\$1 by a generous Challenge Grant provided by Trish and Dan Bell. The event was capped off with an incredible surprise from The Batchelor Foundation which presented Branches with a \$50,000 check at the end of the evening!

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
Diamond Sponsor

BB&T
Norwegian Cruise Line
Sandy & Rodney Bell
Platinum Sponsor

Wells Fargo
Bronze Sponsor

Aetna
BBVA Compass Bank
Bilzin Sumberg
City National Bank
Homestead Hospital
JP Morgan Chase
Pacific National Bank
Ron Book P.A. & Lauren's Kids
SunTrust
Washington Economics Group
Patrons



Brent McLaughlin, Executive Director, Trish and Dan Bell, Philanthropic Chairs and Honorees, Laurie Zapletal and Marielena Villamil, Benefit Dinner Co-Chairs



Board Chair Rodney Bell and Sandy Bell



Adriana Molina and Michael Carricarte



Nancy Batchelor, Bill Jones, Board Member, Brent McLaughlin, Executive Director, Trish and Dan Bell, Philanthropic Chairs and Honorees, Jon Batchelor



Gary Marcelin, Board Member Mary Susan Ward and Phil Ward, Martine Marcelin



Rob and Sarah Bowlby, Abigail and Paul Steiner



Tony and Benefit Dinner Co-Chair Marielena Villamil, Christina Bonarrigo, TJ Villamil, Mark Trowbridge, MC & Auctioneer

Thank You, Branches Sponsors & Stakeholders!

List includes contributions received by Branches from March 10, 2015 to July 31, 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
 Daniel, Shelley & Rutherford, Larry
 Florida Conference UMC
 Florida United Methodist
 Foundation, Inc.
 Helen's Hope Foundation
 Internal Revenue Service
 Miami - Dade County PHCD
 Miami-Dade County Public Schools
 Ocean Reef Community Foundation
 Patrick P. Lee Foundation
 Peacock Foundation, Inc.
 Publix Charities
 South Florida Regional
 Transportation Authority
 The Batchelor Foundation, Inc.
 The Children's Trust of Miami Dade
 The Miami Foundation
 United Way of Miami-Dade
 United Way of Broward County
 Volunteer Florida

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

Anonymous
 BankUnited
 Norwegian Cruise Lines
 TD Charitable Foundation
 United Way of America (Emergency
 Food & Shelter Program)

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

Burdette, William R.
 Church by the Sea
 Miami-Dade County Department of
 Cultural Affairs
 Howard, Kathy & Scott
 Huseby, Laurie & John
 Macy's
 St. Luke's UMC at Windermere
 Wells Fargo Bank N.A.

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

Aetna Foundation, Inc.
 Bacardi, Hilda
 Baptist Health South Florida
 Batchelor, Jonathan
 BBVA Compass Bank
 Benditte, Gabriele & Reinhard
 Bi-Lo Winn-Dixie
 Bowlby, Sarah & Robert
 Branches United Methodist Mission
 Chapman Partnership
 Chester UMC
 Cummins, Kary
 Davey-Rogers, Nadine
 First UMC Coral Gables
 Florida Power & Light Company
 Fulford UMC

Gerson, Preston, Robinson & Co.
 Greater Miami Youth for Christ, Inc.
 Jones, Bill & Hernandez, Reinaldo
 JP Morgan Chase Bank
 Kelly Foundation
 Kendall UMC
 Kowalski, Kathleen & Robert
 McLaughlin, Karen & Brent
 Memorial UMC
 Miller, Kevin J.
 Onsgard, Debbie & Robert
 Pacific National Bank
 Perez, Barbara & Deppman, Ed
 Pike, Isabelle & Russell
 Prothro, Rebecca & Carleton
 Suntrust Foundation
 Tellam, Leanne & Doug
 The Barbara Bush Foundation
 Trombino, Roger
 Trowbridge, Mark
 Tutt, Douglas
 Umbaugh, Glacir & Greg
 Ward, Mary Susan & Philip
 WHA Design, Inc.
 Williams, Vivian & James

Between \$500 and \$999

Alger, Richard & Jolayne
 Arthur, Bruce
 Ault, Cindy & Greg
 Becker, Kathryn Nan
 Bowe, Leslie
 Carpenter-Smith, Elena
 Carricarte, Michael
 Dimitrijevic, Marko
 Fitzpatrick, Jonathan
 Fleming Island UMC
 Foshee, Anne & Durwood
 Furniss-Roe, Tina & Robert
 Harper, Terry
 Harris, Michael & Heather
 Hudson, Christina & Robert
 Kendall UMC Women
 Lowman, Manya & Bob
 McCormick, Merle & Art
 Miami Science Museum
 Milledge, Sandra & Brother
 Miller, Bronwyn
 Padron, Lourdes & Orlando
 Palacios, Jose
 Prasad, Prestin
 Quintero, Norma
 Regions Financial Corporation
 Shelley III, Susan & Robert
 The Outreachers
 Thomas, Gillian & Rhys
 Thornburg, Ashley & Robert
 Vanderdray, Katrina
 Villalba, Victoria

Villar, Maria Gutierrez
 Vincent, Ruthanna
 Wells Fargo Foundation
 Zapletal, Ed

Between \$200 and \$499

Anazco, Beatriz
 Baird, Julie A.
 Ballard, Francis
 Beddow, Megan
 Bodin, Carrie & Amory
 Brown, Christopher
 Christensen, Peter
 Cross, Margaret
 Dammann, Jacqueline
 Davie UMC
 Deppman, Darlene & Edward
 Dewey, Josias
 Duquette, William
 Edward, Julian Edward Pamela
 Eisenberg, Dorothy
 Evans, Lynn & Chester
 Fink, Elizabeth
 Fumagalli, John
 Gonzalez, Karina & Alex
 Haas, Martha
 Hernandez, Alexandra
 Hill, Isabelle & Smith, Frank
 Jankowski, Michael
 Key Biscayne Community
 Foundation
 Koco, Tracy
 LaMarca, Marti & Anthony
 Larry Jacob, Inc.
 Levy-Culler, Rachel
 Liptak, Michelle & John
 Massingill, Amber & Paul
 Matkov, Rebecca & Thomas
 McCullough, Ani & William
 McGee, Lisa
 Mehta, Eileen Ball
 Middleton, Harvey
 Morgan, Patricia & Richard
 New Covenant UMC - The Villages
 Noppenberg, Jane & John
 Parlato, Herbert
 Pruitt, Jonah & Judy
 Sanchez, Hector
 Sanchez-Llorens, Migna
 Silver Palm UMC
 Spahn, Ben & Eva
 Sprinkle, Mary Ann
 The Early Childhood Initiative Inc.
 Torres, Kim & Raymundo
 Toyawanich, Julie & Agulnik, Mark
 Tullis, Tammy
 Tutt, Karina

Continued on Page 5

Thank You, Branches Sponsors & Stakeholders!

List includes contributions received by Branches from March 10, 2015 to July 31, 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.

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

Ugarte, Carlos
Wert, Georgia & Robert
Woodbury, Holly
Young, Marjorie Ann
Zapletal, Laurie A.

Up to \$199

Abuchaibe, Andrea
Adams, Nathan Paul
Aichinger Dias, Laura
Alexander, Bracey
Almeyde, Diane
Altenor, Yves
AmazonSmile Foundation
Anderson, Marilyn
Anonymous
Archer, John
Assiny, Andre
Austin, Tara
Babcock, Steve
Baumann, Art
Benitez, Debbie
Bennett, Erma
Bennett, Rose Stukenberg
Benson, Kari
Bien-Aime, Evens
Buchanan, Patricia
Brooks, Jay
Burdette, Barbara
Burstein, Melisse & Mark
Cabrera, Elizabeth
Cabrera, Jorge
Carroll, Barbara Jean
City of South Miami
Claude, Jasmine
Collie, Michele & Keith
Collins, Shirley L
Comfort, Ann & Stu
Cruz, Mayi
Dadurka, Jonathan
Davidson, Al
Davis, Penn & Michelle
Dekker, Corina
Dempsey, Barbara
Diaz, Javier
Diaz-Leal, Clara
Donworth, Mary E
DSouza, Natasha
Dubner, Anaelis
Duncan, Helen M
Duquette, Gladis
Ebbert, Marlin
Fazenbaker, Ednelor
Fernandez, Jesse
Fernandez-Guzman, Carlos
Fernandez-Guzman, Carlos & Maria

Ferniza, Ambar
First UMC Homestead
Flagg, Barry
Florida Fence Corp
Ford, Melisa & Bruce
Fumagalli, Sara
Gaines, Peggy
Gallop, Carmen
Garcia, Connie
Garcia, Constance
Garcia, Felix
Gauthier, Debra
Gibson, Patricia & James
Gilberts, Lars
Gill, Anna
Gilling, Katya
Giurtino, Kathy & Charles
Glover, Dr. Rosby L.
Gonzalez-Llorens, Rene
Gordon, Ted
Gracey, Melissa
Greg Viejo
Griese, Mary Ann & Jeffrey
Guzman, Jacqueline
Hardin, Rhonda
Hawks, Carol
Hayes, Elizabeth
Haynes, Greg
Hernandez, Carmen
Hernandez, Louis
Herrera, Evilio
Herrera, Marta
Hickey, Raquel & Darryl
Hockman, Vicky
Holian, Ada & John
Horman, Janet
Horne, Kelly King
Horne, Venda & Gene
Howe Jr, Maralyn & Osmond
Huggins, Avid
Huggins, Avid and Amanda
Hursey, Geraldine
Irigoyen, Estella
Irigoyen, Kenneth
James, Sherese
Jefferson, John
Jemeson, Hilary
Johnson, Nicki
Jones, Mary
Jordan, Sherry & Harry
Joseph, Julene
Joshua George
Juan Carlos Freyre
Kelley, Linda & Michael
King, Charles & Diane
Knight, Tracy & Thomas
Knofsky, Jodie
Koch, Deborah
Lafosse-Marin, Steffany & Stephane

LaMarca, Tony
Lawrence, Dave
Lesniak, Melissa
Lopez, Adriana
Lopez, Joanne
Marcelin, Martine & Gary
Martinez, Matt
Martinez, Sheila B
Mascaro, Maureen
Matson, Sally & Duffie
Matusевич, Katya
Mayor Philip K. Stoddard
McBride, Bill & Marilyn
Mendieta, Alex
Mesa, Jorge
Milledge, Sandy
Mitjans, Rita
Mitrione, RaeAnn
Morales, Jeannette & Ricardo
Morgan, Missy & James Emore III
Mozealous, Douglas
Murrell, Darlene & Ken
Nair, Vinit
Navatkoski, Jan
Neilson, James C.
Newman, Joyce & Richard
Newtown, Anne
Norell, Robin
Orane, Andrea
Osmann, Emmanuel
Pacouloute, Guillot
Parkes, Anna A.
Patterson, Catherine W.
Pelegrin, Laura
Perez-Abreu, Carlos
Phillips, Trudiann
Polk, Raheem
Quarles, Rhoda D
Read, Gray
Rees, Evan T.
Rice, Michael & Donna
Rice, Mike
Robinson, Carolyn Ruth
Robinson, James
Robinson, Sandra & Roland
Rodriguez, Ramon L.
Ron, Karina
Rosh, Jacque
Ross, Sandy
Roy, Alina
Rust, Jeff
Santiago, Christian
Schmidt, Don
Segal, Carrie Sue
Sheehy, Jennifer

Continued on Page 6

Thank You, Branches Sponsors & Stakeholders!

List includes contributions received by Branches from March 10, 2015 to July 31, 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.

Up to \$199, continued from Page 4

Sheppard, Krystal
Shoenfet, Robert
Sims, Brian & Amy
Smith, David John
Snyders, Cindy
Stallings, Evelyn Neel
Storms, Norma M
Sylvestre, Stephanie
Taylor, Hillary
The Urban Institute
Torres, Pedro
Umbaugh, Glacir
Vaughn, Bonnie & Joe
Villamil, TJ
Villar, Guillermo
Vincent, Dan
Watts, Nancy & Dean
Weems, Cynthia
Weiss, Karen

Welsh, Jessica
White, Julia
Williams, Evanlina
Winkeljohn, Liza & Paul
Wood Sr., Thomas
Yglesias, Dan
Yglesias, Robyn
Zamikoff, Sara
Zinn, Curran & Marcelo

Donors through United Way Campaign

- Anonymous
- Casey Rintoul
- Liza & Paul Winkeljohn
- Rob Bowlby
- Steve D. Nivet

Gifts in Honor of

- Kim Torres and Torres Family from Rose Stukenberg Bennett
- Nyya Toussaint from Marjorie Ann Young
- Leanne Tellam's first year anniversary at Branches, Inc from herself



Gifts in Honor of Kathryn Becker's 50th Birthday Bash



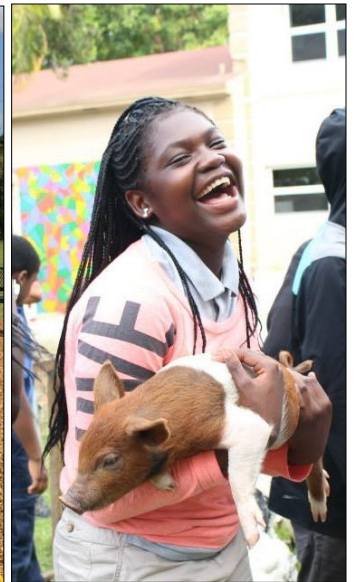
- Aichinger Dias, Laura
- Archer, John
- Ault, Donald Gregory
- Baumann, Art
- Beddow, Megan
- Benson, Kari
- Buchanan, Patricia
- Carroll, Barbara Jean
- Comfort, Ann & Stu
- Cruz, Mayi
- Duncan, Helen M
- Gallop, Carmen
- Gilberts, Lars
- Gracey, Melissa
- Hayes, Elizabeth
- Hockman, Vicky
- Holian, Ada & John
- Horne, Venda & Gene
- Howard, Scott
- Johnson, Nicki
- Kelley, Linda & Michael
- Kowalski, Kathleen
- Matson, Sally Short
- McBride, Bill & Marilyn
- McLaughlin, Brent
- Morgan, Missy
- Mozealous, Douglas
- Murrell, Darlene & Ken
- Neilson, James C.
- Newtown, Anne
- Onsgard, Robert
- Orane, Andrea
- Pelegrin, Laura
- Pike, Isabelle
- Santiago, Christian
- Segal, Carrie Sue
- Sheehy, Jennifer
- Shoenfet, Robert
- Sims, Brian & Amy
- Sprinkle, Mary Ann
- Stallings, Evelyn Neel
- Vaughn, Bonnie & Joe
- Weiss, Karen
- Welsh, Jessica
- Williams, Vivian & James
- Zamikoff, Sara

Thank You, Branches Sponsors & Stakeholders!

List includes contributions received by Branches from Branches from March 10, 2015 to July 31, 2015. you sent a contribution during this period and do not see your name on the list, please contact us at (305) 442-8306 x1005.

In-Kind Gifts

- BB&T Brickell - 8 cases of water for the Branches FL City Playground build on May 23, 2015
- Bi-Lo Winn-Dixie - gifts cards (\$500 value); 50 cosmetic bags and 50 cutting boards
- Carbonell, Janet - 3 pairs of slightly used women's dress shoes and 1 slightly used black women's purse
- Cornerstone UMC Miami - used refrigerator for Branches South Miami
- Jones, Bill - cement for the Branches FL City Playground build on May 23, 2015
- Karl, Stephanie - 42 brand new books for Branches Florida City
- Konica Minolta - printing of 3,000 Branches brochures
- Law Offices of Perez-Ceballos - Easter Bunny visit and dozens of Easter baskets for Branches South Miami
- Reyes, Maribel - 8 men's suits and 3 large boxes of men's dress shirts, polos, shirts and socks
- Toshiba Business Solutions - 10 used laptops
- United Way of Miami-Dade - assorted office supplies, 50 red backpacks and a Thanksgiving dinner serving and dish set
- University of Miami Athletic Dept. - 4 soccer camp scholarships for Branches South Miami students
- Wood Sr., Thomas - 40 office binders for Branches South Miami
- Zurfluh, Tatiana - 20 large boxes of books for children and youth



Branches
Grow Deeper, Climb Higher

Grow, Climb...

Branching Out: College Bound



Proud Branches students are all smiles at one of our 2015 High School graduation celebrations!

Branches believes in the power of education and the value of a college degree. Two years ago, we launched the Branching Out for Success program for high school students to prepare and equip them to succeed in higher education. This program includes a series of workshops throughout the school year as part of the Climb youth program. Workshops cover critical topics such as goal setting, college admission requirements, job readiness skills, financial education, SAT/ACT test prep, essay writing skills and much more. Students are supported by a mentor through the entire process.

Upon high school graduation, Branches students have the opportunity to apply for a Branches' scholarship that helps cover educational expenses. National data reveals that just 11% of low-income youth who attend college are able to reach graduation. The number one obstacle that leads to dropping out is an inability to manage their limited finances effectively. Invariably there is a gap between the amount of financial aid and the overall expenses a college student incurs. Therefore, Branches provides the scholarship to meet the financial gap as well as a mentor to support the student throughout their entire college experience.

We are excited to announce that twelve Branches' college students have been approved to receive our Climb thru College Scholarship. This represents a total value of nearly \$30,000 being invested this school year in these up and coming students!



Celebrating High School graduation at Trish and Dan Bell's home, complete with a yacht cruise and a beautiful dinner!

Warren Willis: More Than Just Camp

On Monday, July 27th, 72 of our middle and high school students embarked on an early morning five hour bus ride, which buzzed with excitement, to Warren W. Willis Camp in Fruitland Park, FL. Warren Willis, a camping ministry of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church has a 65 year tradition of Christ centered camping experiences that transform the lives of young people.

Thanks to the generous support from Trish and Dan Bell, Branches students have the opportunity to take part in this amazing experience and take a break from their often turbulent lives and escape to paradise, even if it just for a few days. For many of our students, Warren Willis Camp is the first time they leave their community. Upon arrival, the campers' schedules are packed with activities for the different age levels; elementary, middle, and high school students each have different themed programming that allows them to work together to accomplish specific goals. Some fun activities range from crafts to archery, from soccer to cooking, and from sailing to yoga.

This special camp is truly a place for growth, love, and for branching out in ways our students never thought they could, and it is an experience that will stay with our Branches campers forever.



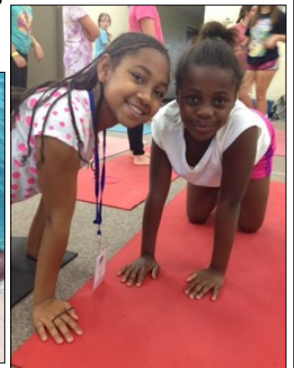
On the bus and off to camp!



Middle School boys enjoying some free time together.



Pool time is a favorite camp activity!



All smiles at Yoga.

Achieve!

A Hand Up, Not A Hand Out

At Branches, we empower families. We believe that motivated people and those open to become more motivated are more likely to benefit from opportunities provided to them. Therefore, Branches has incorporated both coaching and empowerment methodologies in how we engage children and families. Both coaching and empowerment blend accountability, self-initiative, commitment and improvement to enable people to achieve self-defined, truly outstanding and sustainable results in their lives. One of these programs which empowers families is the Ways to Work Car Loan Program.

Ways to Work provides financial education for working families and affordable loans to purchase reliable used vehicles to meet their critical transportation needs. Through the Ways To Work program, Branches is able to offer a unique alternative to predatory lenders for people with a demonstrated commitment to improving their credit status, moving up in the workforce and achieving increased self-sufficiency. Ways to Work provides families a helping hand-up toward a more stable financial future.



Ms. Tania Coloma and her daughter, all smiles with their new car!

One of Branches' recent examples of success is Ms. Tania Coloma. Tania is a mother of two, including a 10 year-old daughter and a 24 year-old permanently disabled son. Ms. Coloma first arrived at the United Way Center for Financial Stability, which we house and operate, looking to obtain a car loan. Ms. Coloma said that a car would truly allow her to increase her income by expanding her employment opportunities. She was paired with a Branches financial coach and worked to build a cushion in her budget to qualify for a loan. Through hard work, persistence and the guidance of her coach, Ms. Coloma was able to obtain a Ways to Work loan in late 2014 and was therefore able to purchase a 2010 Hyundai Elantra. Thanks to her new car, Ms. Coloma was able to increase her hours at her job and is able to save more money for herself and her family. In addition to obtaining a car loan, Ms. Coloma has also benefited from

Branches' free tax preparation services, thereby accessing over \$4,000 in tax credits. Congratulations to Ms. Coloma for never giving up and achieving her goals!



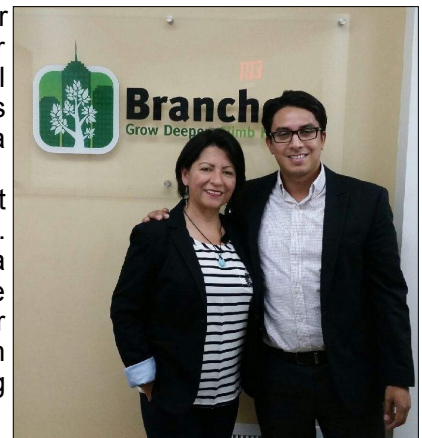
Loan Coach Sandra Ductan and Ms. Tania Coloma.

Supporting Entrepreneurs, Realizing Dreams

Ms. Ana Martinez has been operating a small tailoring business from her home for many years. With more than 20 years in the industry, she believed her work for premier designers and large companies would guarantee personal success. But she lacked the business knowledge to properly set-up her business and encountered numerous obstacles to growing the business and achieving a steady source of income.

She was referred to the Branches' ASSETS small business development program. After just four months of working with an ASSETS' business coach, Ms. Martinez has incorporated her business, set up an accounting system, created a fresh marketing plan and experienced business growth. Some months later she hired two employees and has several new clients who are satisfied with her wonderful and well-designed pieces of clothing. Her business was awarded an ASSETS micro loan funded by a CDBG grant from Miami-Dade County enabling her to purchase much needed equipment.

We are so proud of her accomplishments and wish her continued business success as she achieves more and climbs even higher!



Ms. Ana Martinez and ASSETS program manager Mauricio Mendoza.



Branches
Grow Deeper, Climb Higher

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
MIAMI, FL
Permit No. 2893

11500 NW 12th Ave, Miami, Florida 33168

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Branches To Celebrate 15th Thanksgiving Meal Delivery Anniversary

Thursday, November 26, 2015

To mark the 15th year of this meal delivery program, we will prepare and deliver meals from 8 sites on Thanksgiving Day throughout Miami-Dade and Broward Counties to feed at least 6,000 community members in need. But we need your support! Some ways you can help:

Be a Premiere Sponsor!

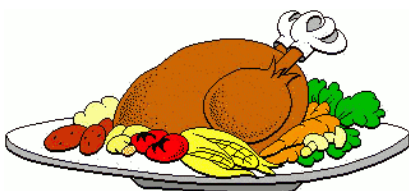
- **\$5,000—Thanksgiving T-Shirt Sponsor**
- **\$2,500 —Thanksgiving Site Sponsor**
(Provides 500 meals)
- **\$1,000 —Thanksgiving Sponsor**
(Provides 200 meals)
- **\$500 — Thanksgiving Supporter**
(Provides 100 meals)

For sponsorship details, please contact:
Isabelle Pike
Phone: 305-442-8306 x1002
Email: ipike@branchesfl.org

Raise Additional Support!

- Help us raise cash and in-kind donations to support the Thanksgiving Day Meal Delivery.
- Organize food drives (workplace, church, school, etc.) to collect non-perishable food items for the Thanksgiving meals. All non-Thanksgiving food items are distributed by our partner churches' food pantries to community members in need during the year.
- Organize volunteer teams to help with meal prep and delivery on Thanksgiving Day.

**For food drive and volunteer details,
visit www.branchesfl.org
and click on Events, Thanksgiving!**



When this ministry began in 2001, we delivered about 600 meals. In 2014, we delivered over 5,800 meals with the help of over 1,100 volunteers. THANK YOU again to our supporters who faithfully help us each year to provide for those who have little. God Bless!