



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Branches Thankful to Dozens of Generous Funders and Partners of COVID-19 Response

June 29, 2020 - Miami, FL – Branches is a local nonprofit organization serving Miami-Dade County which provides life-changing opportunities to help working families and their children break the cycle of generational poverty. Since the COVID-19 Pandemic hit the Miami community, Branches has been working tirelessly to serve children and families.

Branches ramped up its meal service and to date has provided over 22,000 grab-and-go meals for children and families. Within 24 hours of the schools closing, Branches' Grow & Climb student services team began connecting with their children, youth and families via phone calls, text messages and Zoom meetings. The goal is to prevent social isolation as well as to meet the educational and tutoring needs of the students as they adjusted to remote learning. The Achieve team is providing financial wellness services through Zoom meetings and phone calls, providing financial coaching, small business and emergency assistance. The Achieve staff has to date provided over 3,000 virtual meetings with participants, and has provided Business Coaching sessions to 901 small businesses, completing dozens of loan applications. With VITA free tax prep sites closed, Branches launched a 'Walk-Up' Window tax prep service and was one of the few VITA sites to reopen in the State of Florida. Branches has also processed hundreds of emergency assistance applications for financial support in the form of rent for families and small businesses, insurance, food and medicine, and thanks to several key funders, has thus far awarded over \$300,000 to cover those emergency needs.

Branches would like to thank and acknowledge all its funders and partners who have helped make its COVID-19 relief efforts possible: **Trish & Dan Bell, United Way of Miami-Dade, Citi Community Development, Metro1 Commercial, Regions Foundation, Capital One Services, LLC, Peacock Foundation, Inc., National Christian Foundation of South Florida, Wells Fargo Foundation, National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders, The Kirk Foundation, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, The Protestant Congregation of Ocean Reef, Inc., Kim & Stan Van Gundy, The Templeton Family Foundation, Aramark, BBVA Compass Bank, IBERIABANK, Ocean Reef Community Foundation, United Healthcare, Simply Healthcare Plans, Inc., Greg Umbaugh, Aetna Better Health of Florida, Molina Healthcare of Florida, Inc., Feeding South Florida, Farm Share, Sushi Maki and Goya Foods of Florida.**

For more information on Branches, please contact Isabelle Pike at 305-206-5689 or ipike@branchesfl.org

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About Branches

For over 45 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. To learn more, please visit www.branchesfl.org