



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact:

Isabelle Pike

305-206-5689

[ipike@branchesfl.org](mailto:ipike@branchesfl.org)

### **Branches Recognized with the Commitments Award at the Alliance National Conference**

October 16, 2018 - Branches is proud to announce that The Alliance for Strong Families and Communities honored Branches today with the 2018 Alliance Commitments Award for Investing in Capacity to advance Economic Opportunity. This award, presented at the Alliance National Conference, recognizes organizations that exemplify the best of the sector through mastery of the Alliance's Commitments of High-Impact Nonprofit Organizations and achievement of lasting change with children, families, adults, and communities.

In recognizing that Branches needed new and unrestricted dollars to invest in capacity and innovation, Branches has been steadily diversifying its funding base. Less than two decades ago, the organization raised very few unrestricted dollars; however, it now raises well over a million dollars each year from individual and private foundations.

Increased capacity has also helped Branches expand or deepen the reach of its Achieve Programs, which help adults attain specific milestones related financial wellness. Through education and coaching, these programs help them increase their income, build savings, grow assets and reduce their debts. Expansion of these programs includes:

- Since 2014, Branches has led the Free VITA Tax Preparation program in Miami-Dade County
- Since 2016, ASSETS Small Business Solutions has been responding to requests from micro-business owners for more personalized business coaching, providing more individualized services
- Since 2017, financial coaching has been integrated into the services delivered to high school students; age-appropriate financial education lessons are also included in the curricula for elementary and middle school students

Among Branches results:

- 100 percent of micro-business who participate in business coaching achieve their goals
- 4 out of 5 adults working on their credit have increased their scores
- 2 out of 3 adults working on their money management skills are implementing a new monthly spending and savings plan

Branches is grateful to The Alliance for Strong Families and Communities for this prestigious award and recognition. For more details, please contact Isabelle Pike at 305-442-8306 x1002 or [ipike@branchesfl.org](mailto: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](mailto:ipike@branchesfl.org) or visit Branches at [www.branchesfl.org](http://www.branchesfl.org).

### **About the Alliance**

The Alliance for Strong Families and Communities is a strategic action network of thousands of committed social sector leaders who through their excellence, distinction, and influence are working to achieve a healthy and equitable society. We serve as an incubator for learning and innovation to generate new solutions to the toughest problems and aggregate the very best sector knowledge. The Alliance accelerates change through dynamic leadership development and collective actions to ensure policies and systems provide equal access and opportunity for all people in our nation to reach their fullest potential. Go to [alliance1.org](http://alliance1.org) for more information.

###