# **BridgeBuilder**



**FALL 2022** 

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#### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

To serve, educate and inspire people through student, family and financial wellness 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 x2008 info@branchesfl.org

Follow us @branchesfl





# A Message from the CEO

#### Hire a Youth, Change a Life!

"When I was a kid, I loved the Guides. Now that I have become a Guide, it is like a dream come true!" – Rita, age 16

One of the best 'investments' we make at Branches with our resources is hiring our youth and young adults as Summer Shade Guides. This past summer we hired 34 young people to serve as Summer Shade Guides. In total we



paid them over \$52,000 which represents 1% of our annual operating budget. The return on investment is beyond compare!

The Summer Shade Guide program is more than just a job. Youth learn essential leadership and life skills, serve as role models for the younger children, develop critical job experience, open bank accounts, learn money management and much more! Without them serving alongside our staff and AmeriCorps members, we would not be able to serve more than 400 children on a daily basis throughout the summer.

The biggest return on this investment in a young person is that the experience of being employed, being in a leadership role, being accountable in their service and being a part of the Branches family in a meaningful way makes an indelible impact on them as a person. They 'grow up' during the Summer Shade Guide experience and become 'grateful' for the many and diverse opportunities they receive at Branches. "Besides participating in the Climb program, I now volunteer three times a week at Branches with the Grow children because I learned by being a Summer Shade Guide that I can make a difference in someone's life." – Andrea, age 15

To our many donors who make this possible; thank YOU for enabling us to offer the Summer Shade Guide program each year! It is a valuable investment that keeps on paying dividends in these young lives!

With Hope & Gratitude,

Brut HM

**Brent McLaughlin** President & CEO



## **Financial Wellness Update**

Providing services that focus on creating opportunities for families as a whole.

#### Branches and City National Bank Launch SPARK Micro-Business Program



On Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, Branches and City National Bank of Florida proudly hosted the official launch of the SPARK Micro-Business Program. SPARK provides micro-businesses in the Miami-Dade community an opportunity to access mentoring,

educational workshops, business coaching and grants to help them succeed. We officially welcomed our first 25 businesses into the program and even surprised them with a laptop!

Thank you so much to City National Bank (CNB) for their partnership and an investment of \$200,000 in Miami-Dade's Small Business community. Thank you also to UnitedHealthcare for their kind support of our entrepreneurs and providing them access to technology to help them thrive. Lastly, thank you Matthew A. Pigatt of the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce and Commissioner Eileen Higgins for joining us and sharing words of encouragement. It was a beautiful and inspiring event and we are grateful to all our partners for making this event and the program a reality.





Matthew Pigatt, Commissioner Higgins, Entrepreneur Kenemo Williams, Eddie Dominguez-CNB, Brent McLaughlin-Branches

Branches' SPARK Micro-Business entrepreneurs mix and mingle at the reception.



On Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> following the SPARK Launch, Branches hosted a Laptop Distribution and Training, from how to best use the device to cybersecurity. A huge thank you to United Healthcare IT professionals for leading this informative training session.

#### **Grateful for our Partners**





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

A complete list of donors from June 13 – August 21, 2022 can be found online under Newsletters at www.branchesfl.org/our-stories Trish & Dan Bell • Amerant Bank • Comcast NBCUniversal • Emergency Food & Shelter Program • FIU Board of Trustees/Miami-Dade Small Business Resource Navigator • Peacock Foundation, Inc. • Shepard Broad Foundation • The Children's Trust • The Ortega Family Foundation • Truist • United Way Miami • Volunteer Florida • Nancy T. Hector

# Branches' Back to School Bash!

The Bash raised nearly \$50,000 to support our Back to School efforts for our students.

Over 150 guests attended Branches' 6th Annual Back to School Bash on Wednesday, August 10th, at the University of Miami's Newman Alumni Center. Guests mixed and mingled as they enjoyed drinks, delicious appetizers and desserts which were all donated by our incredible restaurant partners. Later that evening, guests were asked to help stuff new backpacks with school supplies for our students, which they did with much enthusiasm as they danced to music by DJ Mayner. Guests also wrote a special note of encouragement for a Branches student which was placed into each backpack. We appreciate everyone who came out to this fun event and supported our children and youth!

We also want to acknowledge all our wonderful school supply drive partners who helped ensure Branches' 500 students went back to school well-equipped and ready to learn. A special thank you goes out to the following donors who went above and beyond: Alma Advertising Agency, Bank United, Carnival Cruise Lines, Diane Guilick, Donna Embree, Homestead Hospital, Jackie Gallego, Kelly Melchiondo, Southern Glazers Wine & Spirits, UM/Sigma Beta Tau and the Templeton Family. Here's to an awesome school year!



Palmer Trinity School was honored with the 2022 Herbert C. Parlato Volunteer Award for their incredible support of Branches!



Maxine Ruiz-Toledo, Manny Garcia, and Russ Beck pack school supplies.



Board Member Scott Howard and Branches staff are all smiles!

A special thank you goes out to all our sponsors and individual donors who helped to make the Back to School Bash such a huge success.

Please visit <u>branchesfl.org/back2schoolbash</u> to learn more and watch our fun Bash Recap video!





Megan Sullivan, Ania & Ray Bade, Travis Sullivan and daughter Cailyn Sullivan show off their backpacks!

## **Thank You, Branches Donors & Stakeholders!**

*List includes contributions received by Branches from June 13, 2022 to August 21, 2022. 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.* 

#### <u>\$100,000 and up</u> Trish & Dan Bell The Children's Trust United Way Miami

#### **Between \$30,000 and \$99,999** Comcast NBCUniversal Emergency Food & Shelter Program FIU Board of Trustees Peacock Foundation, Inc. Volunteer Florida

#### Between \$10,000 and \$29,999

Amerant Bank Anonymous Hector, Nancy T. Shepard Broad Foundation The Ortega Family Foundation The Templeton Family Foundation Truist Financial Corporation

#### <u>Between \$5,000 a<mark>nd \$9,99</mark>9</u>

Aetna Better Health of Florida Aramark Corporation Boeing Company, The Florida Annual Conference UMC Miami-Dade County - OMB Grants Coordination The Kirk Foundation The UPS Foundation

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

Banco do Brasil Baptist Health S FL - South Miami Hospital Bean Automotive Group Bilzin Sumberg CVS Health First United Methodist Church Miami Howard, Kathy & Scott Inman, Kate & Haines, Daniel Lane, Chris & David Law Offices of Alan Goldfarb, PA Romero Roses, Gloria United Healthcare

#### Between \$500 and \$999

AmeriHealth Caritas Florida Bill Ussery Motors Cummins, Kary Iszler, Elizabeth & Timothy Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay

#### PEO Chapter A Pi Nu Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Singer, Daniel Sunshine Health Viventa LLC

#### Between \$200 and \$499

Amaral de Freitas, Luis Ho, Linda & William Kearns, Shannon Olszack, Walter Reed Onsgard, Debbie & Robert Pike, Isabelle & Russell Plantation UMC Ramos, Doris Yamilet Roberts, Nancy & Richard Rodriguez, Manny TD Bank- Bird Pointe Zapletal, Laurie A.

#### <u>Up to \$199</u>

Amalu, Amaka Amaya, Melvin Bachmann, Karla & Peter Bade, Ania Burton, Linda Cargill Coronado, Christine Cortes, Jorge Dammann, Jacqueline de Armendi, Carlos & Mariela del Pino Gonzalez, Isayda Dominguez, Rey Ebbertt, Marlin Eldredge, Patricia Ann Elisburg, Nancy & Donald Elizalde, Damaris Fernandez, Desiree Erin First UMC Coral Gables Flecha Viera, Alexandra Flecha, Annabelle FUMC United Methodist Women Gaab, Marylen Gaines, Peggy Galvez, Maria Galvez, Rosa Garcia, Nataly Goodrich, Ann Hall Greist, Douglas John Heriveaux, Starah Hill, Janice L. & Ronald E.

Hughes, Ann N. & Herbert T. Impact Deposits Corp **IRCON Enterprises** Jean, Nathalie Johnson, Renee Kahn, Laurie & Fabian Khan, Nick Lanxon, Shirley Martinez, Brenda Masztal, Nancy Meginord, Clodwige Meyers, Bobbi Migeot, Connie Milton, Ana Veiga Morgan, Missy & James Elmore III Morgan, Patricia & Richard Neil, Judith Pauline Nelson, Kipp Network for Good Nichols, Sue Nielsen, Elyse Milligan Ortega, Anelith Pagan, Luis Pantry, Florribelle Patricia and Lance Kyle Pattison, Sarah Pierre C., Marc Realini, Helen Reisner, Susan Roy, Alina Ruiz, Nidia Saby, Naldo Sanchez, Hector B. Sanchez, Lydia Sanchez, Michael Simelton, Eric Soliday, Barbara Soto, Julimar St. Hilaire, Nadia Suda, Brenda L. Tannehill, Thomas Torres, Kim & Raymundo Turnes, Vanessa C. Vettel, Sandra & Erwin Villagra, Marlon Walker, Jonathan Watts, Nancy & Dean Weems, Cynthia Williamson, Sandra C. Windhorst, Joyce

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#### Gifts in Memory of

- Muzaffar Anvery from Nick Khan
- Bill McLaughlin from Shirley Lanxon

#### **In-Kind Donations**

- Macdonald Cleaners women's blouses, men's dress shirts, and a men's jacket.
- Mele, Michelle baby clothes, baby swing, baby bouncer, play pen, diapers, and baby musical toy.
- Otero, Audrey queen-size mattress and box spring.
- Zeta Tau Alpha Miami Alumnae 150 assorted sandwiches and snacks.

#### In-Kind Donations Back-to-School

- AmeriHealth Caritas Florida 500 pens, pencils, sharpeners, pencil pouches, erasers and 6 inch rulers
- Bank United Kendall 2 extra large boxes of school supplies
- Baptist Health South Florida Homestead Hospital 12 large boxes of School Supplies
- Regions Bank- Coral Gables 5 boxes of assorted school supplies
- Simply Healthcare Plans, Inc. 48 backpacks and 300 duo tang folders
- Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits school supplies
- The Templeton Family Foundation 85 SWISSGEAR backpacks

#### In-Kind Donations Branches South Miami

- First UMC Coral Gables Women's Group 10 hurricane supply kits
- Jordan, Harry 1 Macbook Air Laptop
- Netto, Maya glue sticks, black sharpies, sketchbooks, paint brushes, white copy paper, oil pastel sets, pencils, scissors, acrylic paint, construction paper, crayons, erasers, watercolor sets
- United Healthcare 200 back packs, 200 water bottles, 200 oral hygiene kits, 375 school kits, and 300 rain ponchos

# NASCAR's Speediatrics Fun Day Festival!

October 17<mark>-21, 2022</mark>





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