



Winter 2025

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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
info@branchesfl.org

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A Message from the CEO

Building Momentum at Branches!

As 2024 concluded, rather than winding down Branches was building momentum! In November and December alone, we touched the lives of thousands of people across our community in meaningful ways.

From Thanksgiving meals to Under the Tree Toy Shops, we served more than 6,000 people in two months and were supported by the caring involvement of over 1,100 volunteers!

We also celebrated the progress made by our entrepreneurs in our Micro-Business Incubator & BE ONE program with a holiday party in December. Over 60 businesses were represented and a dozen partners who support and serve in the program. Awards were given and motivational testimonies shared – everyone was inspired by the success of our entrepreneurs!

We then hosted our annual Climb Higher Scholarship dinner and celebration which includes over 50 post-secondary students. Among the numerous raffle prizes and Branches' gifts provided to the students, we were all motivated by the Denver Nuggets Director of Scouting, Scott Howard's (Branches' board member) heartfelt and inspiring message!

We have kept up the momentum in the new year as 160+ AmeriCorps, staff and volunteers came together on MLK day to serve in our communities from our 3 sites.

We have also begun celebrating with our H.S. seniors as they are receiving their college acceptance letters. There has been a lot of nervous energy as everyone wonders where they will be offered admission... early results are truly remarkable as Yoni has been accepted at UF and UM and Esther has been accepted to Yale!!

Clearly Branches would not have all this momentum without so many engaged volunteers, funders and partners! We are ever grateful for your very kind and compassionate support and involvement. Looking forward to all that we will do in service and love in 2025!

With Hope & Gratitude,

Brent McLaughlin
President & CEO



Branches' 24th Annual Thanksgiving Meal Delivery!



Branches student gets into Yale University!



Branches Florida City Senior Class celebrating their annual Branches Ball.



Branches' Micro-Business Holiday Party.

24th Annual Thanksgiving Recap

Branches celebrates 24 Years of Branches' Thanksgiving Meal Delivery!

Thank you to our Premier Thanksgiving Day Sponsors for their generous support and for making this special day possible:

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Volunteers ready to deliver meals at Branches Florida City!



Volunteers at First UMC Coral Gables packing meals.



Meals being assembled at Coral Gables Congregational.



President & CEO, Brent McLaughlin, with a volunteer at Branches Lakeview.

This Thanksgiving, Branches was honored to bring warmth and care to our community with the help of nearly 1,000 volunteers. Operating from 7 sites across Miami-Dade (5) and Broward (2) Counties, we prepared and delivered over 5,200 meals to individuals and families facing hardship. One grateful family from South Florida shared their appreciation: *"This past Thanksgiving, my wife and I received the loving and kind gift of complete holiday dinners from your organization. Your Thanksgiving Meal Delivery program is a blessing for many people, such as my wife and I, who are no longer able, for various reasons, to keep up with many of the activities that are part of this beautiful tradition."*

At Branches, giving back to our neighbors is at the heart of everything we do. We are immensely thankful for the generosity of our donors and the dedication of our volunteers who make this event possible year after year. Looking ahead, we are thrilled to announce that 2025 marks our **25th Anniversary!** Stay tuned as we prepare to celebrate this milestone in a BIG way, with surprises and events to honor the incredible journey we've shared with our community. Thank you for your unwavering support, we can't wait to make the next year even more impactful!

Thank You to Amazon, Baptist Health, BB Americas, The Keyes Company, LUXE Properties, UnitedHealthcare, and The Tonkinson Foundation for serving as Thanksgiving Site Sponsors. Thank you also to Aramark, Ashcroft Capital, David Smith, Jeannette Coto Dou & Remy Dou, Juan Rodriguez, Kathy & Scott Howard, and Regions who served as Thanksgiving Sponsors. Many thanks to our in-kind donors GOYA Foods of Florida, Peace United Methodist Church (UMC), Redland Community UMC, and United Way Miami for their dedicated support. We are so thankful to all our partners for making this truly impactful Meal Delivery a reality!

A special THANK YOU to our incredible Food Drive Partners!

Palmer Trinity School, Palmetto Bay Academy, BankUnited, Coconut Grove Montessori School, Cornerstone Church, JP Morgan Chase, Kendall United Methodist Church, Miami Kids Magazine, Regions Bank, Shops at Merrick Park and UnitedHealthcare.

Under the Tree Toy Shops

Brightening the Holidays for Branches Families!



One of our favorite times of the year is getting to host our Under the Tree Toy Shops! Nearly a decade ago, we launched on-site Toy Shops to provide parents of our students with an opportunity to purchase brand-new toys for their children at remarkably discounted prices—over 90% off. These festive events, filled with holiday music and treats, allow parents to shop with pride and joy. Each selected gift is then beautifully wrapped by our dedicated volunteers, adding an extra layer of magic to Christmas morning.

This year, we were thrilled to have served over 200 families across all three sites and fill the Toy Shops with over 2,000 toys! In addition to the toys, we gifted our youth with Branches-branded merchandise, which they love to wear throughout the school year, along with their very own gift cards to their favorite shops. These Toy Shops not only empower parents to create special holiday memories but also bring our community together in the spirit of giving and celebration. None of this would be possible without the generosity of our donors and the tireless dedication of our volunteers. As we reflect on the joy of this season, we're inspired to keep building brighter futures for our families. Thank you for helping us make it all happen!

A special THANK YOU to our Toy Drive Partners!

Bristol Towers, First UMC Coral Gables & The Growing Place Early Childhood Center, Grove Central, House of Eli, Kendall UMC, Emily & Kris Aungst, Miami Kids Magazine, Marco Tine & CASA Collection Group, Pacific National Bank, Palmer Trinity Private School, Revive Social MIA, The Little Light House Foundation, Victoria & Jason Randolph and Voices for Children Foundation

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

All other donors from the current Fiscal Year (9/20/24-1/17/25) are listed at branchesfl.org/our-stories under Newsletters

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THANK YOU, Toy Shops Sponsors!

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Thank you!

Thank You, Branches Donors & Stakeholders!

List includes contributions received by Branches from September 20, 2024 to January 17, 2025. 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.

\$100,000 and up

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Thank You, Branches Donors & Stakeholders!

List includes contributions received by Branches from September 20, 2024 to January 17, 2025. 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.

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Thank You, Branches Donors & Stakeholders!

List includes contributions received by Branches from June 13, 2024 to September 20, 2024. 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.

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- Kay Reinert in honor of Cynthia Weems & Mark Holland

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- Matthew Hines in honor of Jonathan Wiener
- Robin Norell in honor of Kim Torres
- Robert Pertierra in honor of Dominic Burdier
- Willis Mui in honor of Citlali Ayala

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- Isabelle & Russell Pike
- Pierre Flores
- Sarah Pattison & Christopher Reilly

Gifts in Honor of The Dan

LeBatard Show with Stugotz

- Andrew Dayton
- Joel Fuce
- Kari Hall
- Lann Childs
- Lindsay Norris
- Too Left Feet Inc
- Yan Ochoa



THANKS to our amazing supporters and funders, our Climb students got the chance to go on a road trip where they were able to tour the University of South Florida and Florida Gulf Coast University!
If you would like to support our Climb Youth Program, please contact:

Sarah Pattison
 305-442-8306 x 3003
 spattison@branchesfl.org



Branches

Trish & Dan Bell Family
Empowerment Centers

11500 NW 12th Ave, Miami, FL 33168 | branchesfl.org

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Branches

Trish & Dan Bell Family
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Saturday, April 26th | 6pm

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*Scan here
for tickets*



branchesfl.org/2025gala