



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2010 Black Tie & Blue Jeans Benefit Dinner Successfully “Branches Out”

Doral, Florida – April 30, 2010 – The 2010 Black Tie & Blue Jeans Benefit Dinner “Branching Out” was a huge success! Due to the very generous supporters of this event, South Florida Urban Ministries was able to raise enough funds to support the 2010 Branches Summer Shade Camp program which will take place at four different sites throughout Miami-Dade and Broward counties.

Due to the funding secured for the summer, the programs will now be able to **“branch out”** further and offer new and exciting activities to the underprivileged children and youth who will be participating. One example of a new and unique activity is in thanks to the University of Miami’s School of Marine Sciences. Branches high school students will participate in the shark conservation program by catching, tagging and releasing sharks as part of the scientific research. We want to once again thank our committed and dedicated sponsors of the event:

- Trish & Dan Bell – Shining Star Sponsor
- The Batchelor Foundation - Diamond Sponsor
- Sandy & Rod Bell - Platinum Sponsor
- Anonymous - Bronze Sponsor
- Betty Chapman and the Hector Family Foundation - Patrons

Thank you again to Trish & Dan Bell, as well as Sister Jeanne O’Laughlin for being on the Advisory Committee for the event. In addition, we are very appreciative of Reverend Mary Susan Ward and Mr. Jonah Pruitt III for being the Event Co-Chairs and all their hard work. Guests enjoyed the evening as they began mingling with one another at the cocktail reception, bidding on silent auction items and chatting with old and new friends. As the ballroom doors were opened, guests danced to the live band and enjoyed a wonderful dinner, as well as a live auction and a second surprise performance by Mr. Will Earl Spanheimer. A sincere thank you goes out to the dedicated committee and volunteers who worked so diligently to make this event so fun and successful. We are also grateful to all the Board Members and guests for their generous and kind support. Together, we are **“branching out”** to offer hope and opportunity to the families in our community!

To learn more about South Florida Urban Ministries, please visit www.sflum.org or contact Isabelle Benditte at 305-442-8306.

About South Florida Urban Ministries

South Florida Urban Ministries (SFLUM) empowers people to move from poverty to prosperity. SFLUM partners with local organizations, including churches, to create and expand ministries of compassion and justice in neighborhoods throughout Southeast Florida. SFLUM provides child & youth development through its Branches after-school mentoring and tutoring programs, as well as small business development training, hunger relief and financial assistance services.

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