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**1. Tell us a little about yourself. Name, occupation, how long you've lived in Miami, something folks may not know about you...**

My name is Blain Heckaman, and I'm the Managing Principal at Kaufman Rossin, one of the [top 50 CPA and advisory firms](#) in the U.S. and one of the largest independent accounting firms in Florida. I moved to Miami from Northern Indiana in the winter of 1984 to work at Kaufman Rossin and have not looked back. In addition to my role at the firm, I have long been involved with and am the past chair of the board of directors for the [Voices for Children Foundation, Inc.](#), whose mission is to raise funds to ensure that every abused, abandoned and neglected child in Miami-Dade County has a court appointed Guardian Ad Litem and access to resources for their health, educational, and social needs. I am also a member of [The Strategic Forum](#), an organization of South Florida business leaders dedicated to the exchange of ideas, development of personal and business relationships and the facilitation of business opportunities among its members.

**2. How did you first get involved with The Beacon Council? Why The Beacon Council versus another organization?**

Members of our firm have been involved in Beacon Council initiatives for decades now, and most recently led a One Community One Goal survey to identify hiring trends among top technology leaders in the region.

We've long admired The Beacon Council's work in creating jobs and fostering economic development in Miami-Dade County. Kaufman Rossin has been in this community for 54 years and has seen firsthand the benefits of South Florida's business growth.

Our firm's mission is closely aligned with The Beacon Council's objectives, which is why we decided to make a firm-wide commitment to supporting the organization. Focused on social responsibility and consistently named one of [South Florida's top corporate philanthropists](#), our firm actively supports organizations that are helping to build a better business community, not only with our sponsorship dollars, but also with our time. Several of our professionals have committed to participating in various Beacon Council committees to address issues in industries such as technology, healthcare, and banking.

**3. What are (Greater) Miami's top business assets? Why is Miami the best place for your business?**

The South Florida market has long been dominated by small to mid-sized entrepreneurial businesses, and while it has always been multi-cultural, now it is truly global. With Miami as the gateway to the

Caribbean, Central and South America, the area is a center of international business, attracting investors and entrepreneurs from around the region and around the world.

Kaufman Rossin has been serving local, national and international clients from our South Florida base for more than five decades and understands well the challenges and opportunities facing those doing business here. Our firm has had the advantage of growing up in this market and evolving alongside our clients to meet their needs.

One particular area of strength in South Florida is the financial sector, in both banking and investments. As financial transactions grow more and more complex and expand globally, more regulation in this sector seems inevitable. As clients face more pressure from regulatory agencies, our firm's significant experience and expertise with issues such as anti-money laundering compliance and cyber security make us uniquely qualified to help financial institutions address their risk.

#### **4. What's next for your business/industry?**

This is an exciting time to be in the accounting profession. While commoditization has increased, innovation abounds. Technology has created so many opportunities to serve clients more effectively, whether through using data analysis, improving processes or serving them remotely with secure, cloud-based technology. Clients expect much more from their CPAs today than compliance; they want us to protect them from risk and improve their businesses.

At Kaufman Rossin, we are increasing specialization and expanding expertise in business, risk and forensic advisory services. These changes are enabling us to focus on our core practice of improving our clients' businesses while helping to mitigate their risks. There are many benefits to this evolution, but from our perspective, perhaps the most important one is the expansion of career paths for our employees.

#### **5. What do you like best about living in Miami?**

In addition to the cultural diversity, strong business community, and non-profit leadership opportunities, I enjoy the fun things that Miami has to offer. Basketball is my sport, and I'm a huge Miami Heat fan – in good times and bad. I also enjoy boating, diving, fishing and generally spending time on the water – and of course, the weather makes all that possible. On the day I left Indiana to move to Miami more than three decades ago, it was 10 degrees below zero. I definitely don't miss that.