

Mitchem Takes the Helm at UCM

New United Community Ministries executive director Nichelle Mitchem had the opportunity to meet members of the local business community at UCM's Business Community Networking Event Tuesday morning at its Back Porch Thrift Store in the Sacramento Shopping Center.

Mitchem assumed her UCM leadership responsibilities in December. She has a long and varied career working in the non-profit sector for more than 20 years at organizations devoted to empowering, uplifting and inspiring people living in poverty, according to UCM.

Mitchem has extensive leadership experience in public service and nonprofit social services providers for vulnerable populations in some of the nation's most impoverished neighborhoods including Atlanta, New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, DC.

UCM board president Gigi Hyland said they were fortunate to have a number of extremely qualified candidates for the position.

"With Nichelle, we are blessed with the perfect fit of qualifications, education, passion, experience and sector knowledge," Hyland said. "We are very excited about the future of UCM under her leadership and our ability to continue to help working poor families and individuals in southeastern Fairfax County."

Mitchem said she is honored to have been selected for the position.

"UCM has a long and impressive history of providing critical programs and services for vulnerable children, youth, adults and families," she said. "The need for UCM's programs and services by residents in the Mount Vernon community continues to be great.

"I very much look forward to working shoulder to shoulder with



UCM photo

Nichelle Mitchem

UCM's highly committed board of directors, staff, volunteers, funders and its community partners to continue to improve the quality of life for persons in need in the Mount Vernon community," she added.

For much of her career, Mitchem has served in senior leadership positions, assisting nonprofit organizations to grow their budgets and expand their capacity to serve children, youth and families.

Previous positions include serving as executive director of

Women Against Abuse, Inc. in Philadelphia, director of operations at Georgia State University's National Center on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Atlanta, and as executive director at My Sister's Place, Inc. in Washington, DC.

In addition, she has also held leadership positions at the governance level at local, statewide and national nonprofit organizations, including service on the board of directors for the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Kiwanis Club in Atlanta, the New Jersey-based Morris County Mental Health Association where she served as vice president, as well as the National Advisory Committee for A Better Philadelphia.

She is currently a board director at Innovative Solutions to Disadvantage and Disability.

Mitchem is also an attorney and a published author and public speaker on family welfare. She earned her BA from Marquette University and her JD degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

— Steve Hunt

See more photos on page 8.

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Dogs Saved

Saved from Page 1

group of South Korean dogs is the first to come to the U.S. through this partnership.

Webb reported that the AWLA's phone lines had been swamped with callers seeking information about adopting the dogs.

And as they will now all end up at loving homes — instead of on a dinner plate — the AWLA notes that the 23 dogs will begin 2015 "with a new leash on life."

— Steve Hunt

See more photos on page 7.

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