
Posted on Sat, Feb. 24, 2007

Mitchell to serve as leader

National search will be held to replace Guy Sims

BY LARRY GIERER
Staff Writer

The United Way has a new leader for awhile.

Sheree Mitchell has been appointed as part-time interim president of the United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley. The United Way Executive Committee made the announcement Friday afternoon. A national search for a new president is planned.

Mitchell replaces Guy Sims, who resigned as president on Jan. 29. Sims, former Muscogee County School District superintendent, said he plans to work to make people more aware of the local poverty problem.

The president and chief of the Growing Room Development Centers in Columbus, Mitchell will step down as chair of the United Way board and Lee Brantley, general manager of WTVM and immediate past board chair, will serve as interim board chair.

"It is important during a time of transition to have a strong leadership presence," Brantley said in a released statement. The executive committee approached several individuals in the community about the interim position but due to their own business and community commitments, they were not available. Sheree submitted an idea to help solve that problem."

Mitchell said that the United Way staff are very dedicated people.

"They have a lot of responsibility to ensure that daily business operations and community needs are met," she said. "I can help them do that temporarily on a part-time basis and still take care of the children and families that depend on me at the Growing Room."

Mitchell led the United Way fundraising campaign ending 2006 that surpassed the

\$6 million goal, collecting \$6,361,430. Leading that campaign, she related how she was helped when her dying father received hospice aid.

"It let me be his daughter in those last days, instead of his nurse."

United Way just ended its most successful campaign ever, raising pledges totaling \$6,600,910 with a \$6.4 million goal.

United Way serves 50 programs in 22 agencies, including the Second Harvest Food Bank, Stewart Community Home and CONTACT.