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**Former “The Wire” actor
found dead**
Michael K. Williams, known for
starring roles in “Lovecraft Coun-
try,” “Boardwalk Empire” and the
HBO series “The Wire” was found
dead on Monday at his Brooklyn
apartment, according to New York
City Police. He was 54. His death is being investigat-
ed as a possible drug overdose, and New York City’s
medical examiner will determine the cause of death.



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The Northern Kentucky HERALD



Marvin and Cornell from Lighthouse Youth Services. Photos provided

Last Mile Food Rescue steps in to save good food from the dump and deliver instead to those in need

By Olivia Cook
Last Mile Food Rescue

Last Mile Food Rescue picked up the 1 millionth pound of fresh food in August that would have been on its way to the landfill. Instead of the good food going to waste. It was picked up by volunteer drivers – Food Rescue Heroes – who use an app to claim a rescue, load up the food in their personal vehicles, and deliver to non-profits around the city. Feeding America estimates that we need 13 million meals – about 15.6 million pounds of food –

to close the meal gap in Cincinnati. Meanwhile Hamilton County Waste District reports approximately 60 million pounds of food are wasted each year. “While these are huge numbers, they also seem surprisingly attainable,” says Eileen Budo, Chief Operating Officer of Last Mile. “If we can pick up just one quarter of the food going to waste and deliver to neighborhoods, non-profits, and food deserts, we can end food insecurity in our city.” Last Mile delivers food to 135 non-profits in Greater Cincinnati including

pantries, drop in centers, day cares, senior centers, and pop up pantries in low-income neighborhoods. All of the rescues are posted on a simple volunteer-facing app that allows drivers to pick up a rescue and follow step-by-step directions from pick up to drop off. In under a year of operations, over 550 volunteer drivers have completed a rescue. One of these drivers picked up the 1 millionth pound of food rescued since Last Mile launched last fall. To learn more about Last Mile or get involved, visit lastmilefood.org or call 513-449-1698.

See FOOD on page A2



Team photo for the ETAC volunteers.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when he visited Cincinnati’s West End in 1960s. Another Civil Rights icon, the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth Sr., of Cincinnati, is shown with him. File photo

City to commission a memorial to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By Kelly Carr
City of Cincinnati

The City of Cincinnati announces an open call for artists to submit applications to design and build an outdoor public memorial to honor Civil Rights icon and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The memorial will be located at the northeast corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive East and Reading

Road in Uptown’s Avondale neighborhood. City council passed an ordinance in May that approved \$1 million for the project. “We are proud to announce this project as a lasting way to honor Dr. King and to highlight his significant connection to Cincinnati,” said City Manager Paula Boggs Muething. “His local ties included a

See MLK on page A2

Laura Mitchell: ‘I found a new calling at a very special place’

By Dan Yount
The Cincinnati Herald

Former Cincinnati Public Schools Superintendent Laura Mitchell by contract could have stayed on as the district’s leader until July 31, 2024, but wrote in her recent resignation letter to the CPS Board of Education that, “There is a season for all things, and it’s time for me to embrace a new calling.” That “new calling,” was announced at about the same time. Mitchell was to become President and CEO of Beech Acres Parenting Center, a 170-year-old, highly respected agency that works to strengthen Greater Cincinnati’s children and families. She served on the agency’s board since 2016. Mitchell, 52 and a Cincinnati native, had spent 27 years of her professional career with Cincinnati Public Schools, the last four as superintendent and the last year and one-half closely working with the board and health professionals trying to figure out how to best educate students during the deadly coronavirus



Laura Mitchell. Photo provided

pandemic. Mitchell would be leaving Ohio’s third largest school district with 36,000 students, 6,500 employees, and a budget of \$647 million. Her change brought her to an agency similarly focused on children, with 150 employees serving over 31,000 people annually through programs including foster care, kinship care, adoption, behavioral health support in schools and parent coaching. Beech Acres has three centers located at 6881 Beechmont Avenue

and at 3325 Glenmore Avenue in Cincinnati, and at 767 Columbus Avenue in Lebanon, Ohio. Beech Acres serves Hamilton, Warren and Montgomery counties. Mitchell graduated from CPS’ School for Creative and Performing Arts. She earned a bachelor’s degree in 1991 from Bennett College, a historically Black women’s college in Greensboro, North Carolina. After a short stint teaching in Athens, Georgia, she moved back to Cincinnati to teach in CPS. She later earned her master’s

in education administration from the University of Cincinnati and her superintendent certification from Xavier University. She served in a variety of roles at CPS. She taught at the former Central Fairmount Elementary School, was assistant principal and then principal of Westwood Elementary School, worked as a principal coach and then served as deputy superintendent and chief academic officer from 2005 to 2017. In 2017, Mitchell replaced then-superintendent Mary Ronan, who now serves as superintendent of the Norwood City School District. CPS Board President Carolyn Jones said of Mitchell: “We are sad to see Superintendent Mitchell leave, but we are immensely grateful for her leadership. She has elevated Cincinnati Public Schools to new heights of achievement, led our district through a global pandemic, and reimagined what’s possible for all of our students. Thanks to her dedication and service to our

See MITCHELL on page A2

Anti-racism training is on Zoom in Sept. 13

By Lashale Pugh, PhD.
Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition

White Folks (Part I): We Have to Talk About Race
Date: Sep 13, from 10 - 11:30 a.m.,
Zoom Registration:
<https://www.tinyurl.com/antiracismtraining2021>

This virtual workshop will focus on strategies for engaging in racial equity conversations. This training is for everyone Black, Brown and White that are working to address disparities in the African American community. Through facilitated discussion and activities, participants will explore the social construct of race; recognize and examine our privilege in society based on the intersectionality of our identities; and examine the impact of systemic racism.

MLK

Continued from page A1
partnership with Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, pastor of Revelation Baptist Church. Together, Dr. King, Rev. Shuttlesworth and others formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to better coordinate Civil Rights protest activities across the South.”

The application requires artists, individually or as a team, to submit details about their qualifications in a formal RFQ. The deadline to submit the RFQ is Thursday, Oct. 14. An evaluation committee will narrow the list to a select number of artists or teams who will develop design proposals with public input. The short list of applicants is expected to be announced in mid-December. The finalist is expected to be announced in early May 2022.

The memorial is slated for completion and a public dedication in August 2023 to coincide with the 60th anniversary of King’s “Dream” speech.

Read more about the project and follow the link to the RFQ: <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/mlk-Memorial>.

MITCHELL

Continued from page A1
staff, students and families, we know the future is bright at CPS.”

‘Lucky to land at Beech Acres’
Now at Beech Acres, Mitchell says, “I feel fortunate and lucky to land at Beech Acres. It is a very special place. The staff is extremely passionate and dedicated to the families and kids; they want the best for them; they are very loving and caring people to each other; and they have been very helpful to me.”

She also appreciates the assistance she is receiving from her predecessor Jim Mason, who led the agency for 31 years. During that time, Beech Acres grew from an orphanage known as General Protestant Orphan Home with 60 children living on campus to a parenting center that serves thousands of parents, children and teachers every year. The organization’s mission comes with a belief that “every child deserves the opportunity to achieve their full potential in life and that intentional parenting is the single greatest difference-maker. We are passionately pursuing a world where all children are nurtured to discover, cultivate and apply their natural gifts.”

A lot more is to come in the future of Beech Acres, Mitchell said. “Keep your eyes on us. We are on the move as we continue to address the social changes and injustices (sparked in the



Jim Mason, retiring President and CEO of Beech Acres Parenting Center, and Laura Mitchell, who succeeds him, at Mason’s recent retirement event. Photo provided

last two years).”

Mitchell said her decision to leave CPS for Beech Acres had nothing to do with the pandemic or leading a school district of 36,000 students. “It has been a challenging time for parents, students and teachers. The work they were doing during the pandemic was more difficult than what I was doing. Not only in Cincinnati, but across the country, school leaders were making important decisions about their work.”

And Mitchell also said she thought about her future in making the move. “I’m not a person who runs after ambitions. I try to do a really good job where I am. That, however, leads to other opportunities. I was not thinking about running away from CPS. I just saw another opportunity here to work with kids.”

She added, “I do not have 52 more years. So, how do I want to spend my remaining years? I have never lost my love for kids or the community; my focus and mission are still on young people and their families. It’s just that I found another way to move forward.”

Students socially isolated
CPS and Beech Acres both deal with the social and emotional impacts on children today, such as suicide, the pandemic, the prevalence of divorce, social media bullying and other challenges, she said. “That feeling of our kids being socially isolated impacts families. There needs to be more of a sense of belonging, especially for children,” she said.

“As we begin to open up our society, we need to work on social and emotional health. Our kids need social interaction and mental health services.

“Whether they go on to college, a trade school or join the military, it’s tough. But we have done it, and we can let kids know that in every place they can be involved and happy.”

Mitchell adds that it is possible to work with parents to make those social changes, whether we want youngsters treated fairly by police, obtain equal employment, or break down other barriers to facilitate a marriage of social and mental health awareness.

Being a former teacher and superintendent of a large school district provided valuable insight into what students and parents want from educators, Mitchell said. “Those experiences allow me to see Beech Acres from a different perspective and to interact in different ways. As the educational system provides access and opportunities for kids, Beech Acres also does that.”

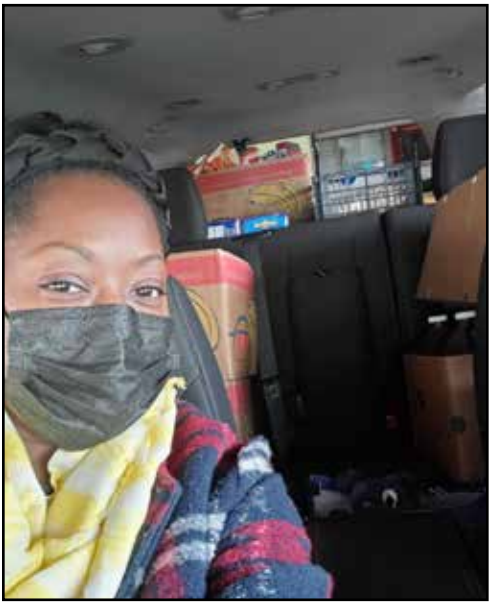
Learning curve ahead
“I come with a context that is helpful, but I have a learning curve here. I have some new things to learn here.”

Mitchell said she would be launching a strategic planning process for the direction of Beech Acres to travel during the next three years. The journey will include opportunities for expanding services, serving more people with impact, and expanding child welfare, foster care, adoption and kinship care.

The need for Beech Acres’ services is great, with more than 1,800 children needing access to foster care each day in Hamilton County.

Building on natural strengths
Mitchell says all programs at Beech Acres use the 3 pillars of Natural Strength Parenting: setting goals, being present and building on individuals’ innate character strengths. She is excited about a Beech Acres program called The Character Effect™, which helps teachers lead into the student’s natural strengths, rather than leading from a deficit model.

FOOD



One of the volunteers, Barbara Bell, has a car full of donations. Photos provided



Milk was one of the main items this UDF location donated.



A group of volunteers filled a trunk full of fresh produce.

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