



BERRIEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

919 PORT STREET, ST. JOSEPH, MICHIGAN 49085-1184
PHONE: (269) 983-7111 • FAX: (269) 983-9956
WWW.BCSHERIFF.ORG

L. PAUL BAILEY
SHERIFF

CHARLES E. HEIT
UNDERSHERIFF

ROBERT BOYCE
CHIEF DEPUTY

PRESS RELEASE

Date and Time: February 25, 2018 at 12:35hrs

United Way of Southwest Michigan and the Berrien Community Foundation Set Up Disaster Relief Fund for Local Families

To help address the problems of the widespread flooding throughout Berrien and Cass counties, United Way of Southwest Michigan and the Berrien Community Foundation have partnered to establish the **Disaster Relief Fund** to help with the recovery needs of families impacted. 100% of all funds will go directly to disaster relief assistance through the American Red Cross of Southwest Michigan.

"All dollars raised by this Relief Fund will be used to help with both immediate, basic needs and long-term recovery of families affected by the flooding," states Anna Murphy, President of United Way of Southwest Michigan.

To give to the Disaster Relief Fund, visit www.uwsm.org/relief. Or text UWSMRELIEF to 51555.

"We are extremely appreciative of the effort being made by United Way and the Berrien Community Foundation," adds Breeze Ettl, Executive Director of the American Red Cross of Southwest Michigan. "The Disaster Relief Fund will go a long way in providing the support so many families will need in Southwest Michigan."

If you'd like to make a donation via cash or check, please send to the following address (checks can be made payable to **BCF/Disaster Relief Fund**):

Disaster Relief Fund
c/o Berrien Community Foundation
2900 South State Street, Suite 2E
St Joseph, MI 49085

United Way and BCF are working closely with the Red Cross for any emergency volunteer needs. The Red Cross volunteers on the ground and in shelters have many hours of specialized training to prepare them for disaster response. Please understand that untrained volunteer opportunities might be limited until new needs are identified. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Julee Laurent, Volunteer Engagement Manager at United Way, at julee.laurent@uwsm.org or 269-932-3566.

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