



**COUNTY OF BERRIEN  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
BRET WITKOWSKI, TREASURER**

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Berrien County Treasurer's Office  
Berrien County Administration Center  
St. Joseph, MI 49085  
Contact: Bret Witkowski, Treasurer  
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**For Immediate Release**

Last year, the Berrien County Treasurer's Office, in cooperation with United Way of Southwest Michigan, set up a "Hopeful Home Fund" to help homeowners who are close to losing their homes due to back taxes. Last year, Shannon O'Brien, and her triplet high school daughters, of Stevensville received funds from the "Hopeful Home Fund" to pay her back taxes while Shannon battled breast cancer, which saved her home from foreclosure.

Shannon said, "There are no words to express the depth of my gratitude to the generous donors to the Hopeful Home Fund. The gift my family received lifted the burden of worrying about losing my home and allowed me to focus on fighting my breast cancer."

"It is my hope that the great people of Berrien County will once again step up and donate to help a Berrien County family—who is behind on taxes due to circumstances beyond their control—to keep their home and avoid foreclosure," said Bret Witkowski, Berrien County Treasurer.

**All donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Donations should be made to United Way Hopeful Home Fund and sent to United Way of Southwest Michigan, 2015 Lakeview Ave., St. Joseph, MI 49085.**

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