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CITY OF NILES

Press Release

City Urges Flood Victims to Report Damage and Needs

NILES, March 6, 2018 16:00 hours – For Immediate Release

The St. Joseph River gage in Niles is at 11.96 feet as of 6am. The river is in the minor flood stage and continues to recede. It's expected to be below flood stage of 11 feet by Thursday night and out of the action stage by Sunday afternoon. Yesterday's gage level was at 12.35 feet at 7am.

Berrien County Emergency Management encourages everyone with flood related damage to contact 800-815-5485 Mon-Fri 8:30am - 7:00pm or use the Disaster Damage Reporting Form available online at <http://www.berriencounty.org/1465/2018-Flooding-Information>. If you call after hours or over the weekend, please remember to leave your name and contact information and they will return your call.

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.

United Way will be working to issue donations to property owners in need over the next few weeks. Anyone needing assistance, cleaning supplies, relief kits, etc. should make sure they call 211 and request these items. Those with immediate needs (clothes, food, gas cards, etc.) should call 211 or Neighbor to Neighbor at 269-471-7411.

The Berrien County EOC in coordination with the United Way are working with national relief organizations like Team Rubicon, Crisis Clean Up and International Disaster Emergency Service to start providing no cost assistance to homeowners needing assistance with additional abatement and muck out needs in the affected homes. These entities can be reached through by calling the United Way 211 help line.

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