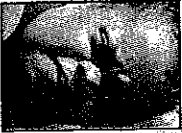


Helpers save woman's house

Assistance from donors prevents foreclosure for disabled Elyrian



Taylor

Jason Hawk
The Chronicle-Telegram
ELYRIA — Catherine Taylor's house on Mussey Avenue has been saved.

Donors have been pitching in to erase the thousands of dollars in back taxes and court costs that 53-year-old Taylor, who is disabled and unemployed, has accrued

over the past several years. Ken Reddinger Sr., president of Buckeye State Welding & Fabricating in Elyria, set up a fund at Buckeye Bank after reading in The Chronicle-Telegram that Taylor's house would be foreclosed and put up for sheriff's sale Aug. 20. He said he was able to pay off Taylor's outstanding balance of \$3,879 she owed to the county treasurer and clerk from the donations made at Buckeye Bank. "We had a couple of really good days," he said. "There was one person — I don't know who it was — who went in and paid \$1,600."

See **SAVE, A2**

Taylor had been struggling since receiving a foreclosure notice in January to hold onto the home her parents willed to her. She tried finding help to pay the bills, but said doors closed in her face at every turn. Finally, desperate to make her tax debt go away,

SAVE

From A1

she decided to try paying it off in June with a credit card, but was told the county treasurer's office couldn't accept them.

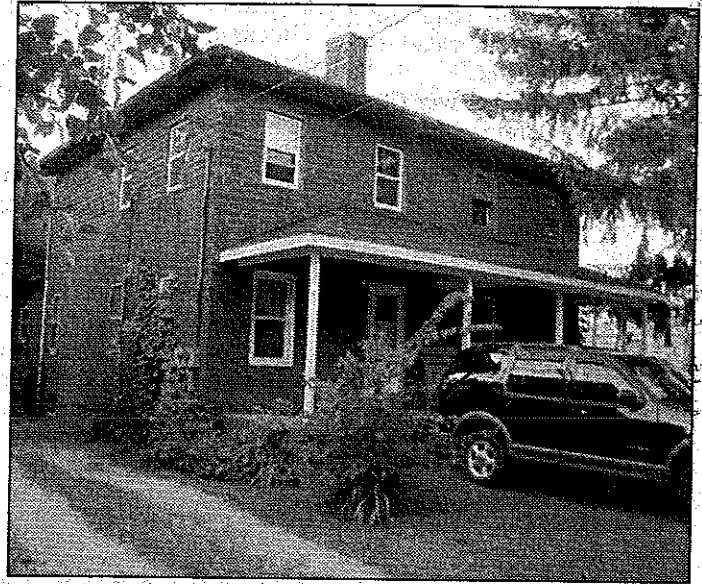
By the time Taylor figured out her credit card company could issue her personal checks, it was too late. The county had moved ahead with the foreclosure, which meant she was assessed more fees and fines she couldn't pay.

People from all over the county responded to Taylor's story when it was published Aug. 1. But relief money came in very slowly at first, and Reddinger said he was very nervous last week when only \$410 had been deposited at the bank in Taylor's name.

But since then, calls from good Samaritans continued to ring into The Chronicle offices asking how they could help Taylor.

Amanda Davis, one of the Lorain County Legal Aid Society attorneys working on Taylor's case, was surprised Wednesday to learn the bills had been paid. She said she was still waiting for a judge to decide whether to waive Taylor's \$1,353 in court costs that have rung up while she fought foreclosure.

"We were going to talk about ways to stall the sheriff's sale," Davis said. "Now that's



CHRONICLE FILE

Thanks to assistance from good Samaritans, Catherine Taylor's home on Mussey Avenue will be saved from foreclosure.

not going to be necessary. This is incredible."

She said Legal Aid's next goal will be to help Taylor get in touch with agencies and enroll in programs that will help pay for upkeep on her aging home. Taylor lives on a monthly disability check of \$680 and has trouble making ends meet.

"She's afraid the same cycle is going to happen again where the city's going to fine her because the house is in the shape it's in," Davis said.

She said Taylor is scared that she might have to resort to

eventually selling the house where she grew up and where her parents both died.

Reddinger said he's aiming to make that fear disappear.

He said he's going to keep the Buckeye Bank account open in Taylor's name through Friday and allow donors to establish an escrow fund. That way, there will be some money to help Taylor pay taxes the next time they are due, Reddinger said.

Taylor couldn't be reached for comment Wednesday.

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