

Sharing Tears and Easing the Pain

Dear Readers,

I received two requests to look in on a mom and her children. I was informed that the mother and children had been getting food from the food pantry for several months and that the mother was very ill. One of her children requires oxygen and they had received their final disconnection notice from their utility company. Also, their car had broken down.

This mother is very proud and did not ask for help herself. She was brought to my attention by some caring individuals who took notice of her plight. I will try to share with you, my readers, the overwhelming emotions, this mother's struggles brought to my heart.

My assistant conveyed to me the urgency required in this situation. The electric company did not know there was a health necessity and the electricity must stay on because of the child requiring oxygen.

When I first approached the structure in which they were dwelling, I knew right away this was not going to be a normal house or apartment. I noticed that half the building was being used as a garage for a car and storage. When I did go in I was pleasantly surprised to see that it had two rooms for bedrooms and an efficiency with a medium sized refrigerator, a small cooking area and lots of windows. The windows made the area very habitable.

As I was introducing myself I was looking around and I noticed the kitchen table. I asked, "Where did you get this?" The mother said, "I pulled the legs out of a garbage dumpster and I was given the piece of drywall to put on top." I could see that one of the children was very embarrassed. I said, "It's a nice table but we will have to get you another one." With that the child looked up, recognizing that we were there to help. I asked where the oldest child was and was told that the child was very distraught over the situation. Her mother told me she often asked, "How long are we going to be like this, Mom?" wondering from day to day and hour to hour if the emptiness inside was going to continue. They went to register for school and found they owed some money from the previous year, in addition to the fees owed for this year. Since they only had a few dollars they could not pay and left filled with embarrassment and shame. The poor child was devastated.

The Food Pantry has been sustaining them, and the people at the food pantry had been very God loving and caring. God Bless them.

Their landlord is a very wonderful person and has been providing a good roof over their heads and, I have to say, a nice place to live. I guess it

would be embarrassing, as the one child put it, to bring your friends over, but I reminded them they are not alone. There are 40 million Americans going to bed hungry every day and their situation was better than most. I wanted to be positive about their situation. I was there to help, not to feed into the emotional trauma.

I had to coax the children to gather around with their mother as I told them about how I was brought up in poverty but we all stuck together as a family. They listened intently, understanding that yes, there are others that live like they do. We all acknowledged that if it wasn't for their kind landlord and the saints from the food pantry they would be much worse off. They all thanked God for their help and so do I. They needed to be aware that they were definitely not alone and that the Time Is Now was going to help them also.

I found out their electric bill was a few thousand dollars behind and I told them immediately that we would bring that bill up to date. It turned out their car had almost 300,000 miles on it and there was no simple fix. The car was literally falling apart. The brakes did not work. When it rained, the car would get water inside. At the present time it needed several expensive parts and they would be just a band-aid for another mile or two. Thanks to a wonderful caring couple who have donated several cars, I was able to tell the mother and children that we did have a car for them. With this news, they huddled together, and the mother cried in relief and gratitude. Her tears were very heartfelt and it just went right through me as she was sobbing and crying, and with that the children started crying too. My voice did not give away the tears flowing from my eyes, or the ache in my heart for them. I said, "I hope these are happy tears." She shakily replied, "Yes, yes they are! We've been getting great help from our landlord and from the people at the food pantry. We are so grateful for that as it has been sustaining us but this help now..." and she started crying out loud again. With that I put my arms around them, consoling them.

After everything calmed down a bit, I discovered that through all of this, there was more pain. This young mother was also dealing with cancer, a nervous disorder and also a bone disease. I was thinking to myself, "The Lord isn't supposed to give us more than we can handle." At least that is what I have been told. But there was more. One of the children was brutally abused by her father, who is now gone. The small child had sustained brain damage to the point that she cannot be outside when it is hot. She must be kept indoors where it is cool due to the brain injury. If she is exposed to any excessive heat she could endure physical trauma due to her brain swelling. This is the same child who needs to be on oxygen when sleeping.

There were other necessities needed. When I checked their bedding it was very old. There was a necessity for all new beds. The mother, with her physical problems, only had a thin mattress laid over some wood. She had said how painful it was for her to try to lie down so we supplied her with a new, supportive mattress and box spring. We also supplied the children with new beds.

We gave them some “Pick n’ Save” gift certificates so they can obtain some other foods not available at the food pantry. One of the children stated how thankful they had been for the food they had been receiving from the food pantry, but how special it would be to pick out some food from the grocery store.

By the time I got through reviewing this entire situation, accessing all the daily necessities needed for everyday living, such as furniture, beds, utilities, just a few dollars for some daily necessities, I could see things starting to add up. Even though at this time we have received our matching grant from Richard Driehaus, I have over one hundred requests that have been waiting for help for months. My heart breaks to think that there are more people in situations like this who are waiting and we haven’t been financially able to help them.

It took us a record breaking four weeks to reach our goal and meet the Richard Driehaus matching funds. By doing God’s work, we have been able to put that money to good use in a much faster time than it was received. I felt the necessity to make a phone call to one of our loyal supporters Bill McEssy, who donates funds every year from his six Walworth County McDonald’s restaurants to further our Time Is Now to Help cause. Knowing that Bill is a God loving man, I called him, explaining the situation and his reply was, “Tell me what you need.”

I gave him the total and he said he would bring me a check. I thank God for good people like Bill and Richard Driehaus. I thank God for our wonderful couple who donated all the cars and I thank all of you who have been giving to help support the needs of those less fortunate.

I also want to thank all of you for the many cards and notes in behalf of my beloved mother who has moved on to heaven. I thank you for your concern, your prayers, and your thoughts. I cannot tell you how much it means to have so many of my loyal supporters acknowledge her importance in my life. God bless all of you for your compassion and support to what my mom’s pain of poverty started, *The Time Is Now to Help*.

This situation in which we helped these individuals has allowed them to live a much better life now. The children are being much more carefree with their life, especially the oldest one, knowing that there are good,

generous people who care enough to reach out and help. There are so many others out there who need our help. Please, whatever you can do to help, please Care & Share. Every penny you give will go to help our fellow creations of our Lord who are dealing with the pain, shame and sadness of poverty.

Health & Happiness, God Bless Everyone, WC

A Special Thank You To: Bill McEssy, Richard & Jean Honeyager, J. & Karen Fritz, Geri & Al Hinton in honor of their 50th Anniversary, Larry & Sandy Kulik, Tracy Cysewski, Tom & Diane Brauer, Donald & Jean Smith, ALL of you who support *The Time Is Now to Help* donation boxes, and the businesses that allow our donation boxes. Anyone who would like a *Time Is Now to Help* donation box in your business, please call 262-249-7000.

Big Apple Bagels: On Friday, September 14, 2007 Big Apple Bagels in Lake Geneva will be donating 10% of **ALL SALES** to *The Time is Now*. Please stop by and enjoy breakfast and/or lunch, coffee or snacks, while helping *The Time is Now*.

Pick ‘N Save “We Care” Program: Please sign up for the “We Care” program at your local Pick ‘N Save. A percentage of each purchase will go directly to *The Time is Now to Help*. All you have to do is designate *The Time is Now*, account number **832410**, on your Advantage Plus Savers Club Card application, which can be done at the service desk.

Please make checks payable to: *The Time Is Now to Help*. *The Time Is Now to Help* is a federally recognized 501(c)3 charitable organization licensed in the states of Wisconsin and Illinois. You will receive a tax deductible, itemized thank you receipt showing exactly what every penny of your donation provided for the poverty stricken.

Endowments/Helping Others through Your Will: For those of you who wish to leave an endowment for the poverty stricken, we would greatly accept any gifts. Please think of those in desperate need, good people, living in fear of poverty and consider helping them through your will.

Donate Stocks/ Mutual Funds, Let the Government Contribute: Consider donating shares of appreciated stocks and mutual funds to *The Time Is Now to Help* and receive twice the benefits from your gift. Please call 262-249-7000 if you would like more information.

Needed Cars: There are those in need of reliable transportation. Please call 262-249-7000.

Please visit: HYPERLINK "[http://www.Time](http://www.TimeIsNowToHelp.org)"**www.Time Is Now To Help.org**

WWJD – Our Fellow Creations Need Our Help
May we be an Example of Goodness by the Life We Live.
Mom, I Love You

Unity of Spirit - Communities of Friends