

Elderly Widow Receives Needed Help

Dear WC,

There is a neighbor that lives several blocks away that I think can use your help. She has lived here for what seems like forever. I have asked other neighbors, who are also seniors, in the area and they say that she has lived here longer than they have. When I drive past her house I notice the grass is tall, there are a couple of broken windows and her tiny house looks very tired. I do not know how she is getting food and other necessities. In fact, there is not much I do know other than the fact I never see anyone visiting her. I am sorry I do not have enough backbone to stop and check on her myself. I have slowed down and I have even stopped a few times, but I never have been able to get myself to knock on the door thinking I might embarrass her or be turned away. After you talk to her, if there is anything I can do to help, I would gladly help. Could you please break the ice and do the introductions for me?

A Concerned Neighbor

Dear Readers,

The good neighbor's intuition was correct. The elderly widow living in the house has been overwhelmed by a lack of everything, from insufficient funds, lack of a social life, lack of loved ones...

When I first knocked on the door I heard some noise inside. As I waited, the door was answered and the first words I heard were, "May I help you?" I thought that was something I was there to do so I said, "Yes, you can. I have been sent here by a request from a caring neighbor to introduce myself." After I introduced myself with a smile, she introduced herself to me, giving me her formal first and last name. She was still a little defensive, obviously asking herself, "Who is this person?"

I continued to talk from the doorstep as I did not ask to be invited in, nor was I invited to come in, which was fine. We talked outside for nearly an hour. I could tell she was becoming comfortable talking with me. I had brought along a copy of the newspaper column. Sometimes presenting a "Time Is Now" article and one of my business cards is reassuring so people can see that there is a connection with this person on their front doorstep and The Time Is Now To Help. She noticed the photo of me standing next to Richard Driehaus saying, "Oh, this is you!" I smiled and said yes it was.

After getting to the root of the visit, providing her with some much needed companionship and addressing her need for assistance, she said, "This is the first time anything like this has ever happened to me. Are there many people like you going around?"

I told her that I actually represent a large group of God-loving, Caring and Sharing people. I explained that we thought she would be a little overwhelmed if we all showed up on her doorstep. With that her eyes widened and she said, "Oh yes, I would not understand why a whole crowd of people were coming to see me." I explained that I was the first person and that with her permission, I was sure there would be a few others who would like to visit her. She said, "Oh, a few will be fine. I don't want a crowd coming here though." Then she looked down, clearly upset at the thought. I assured her she did not have to worry, that a crowd was not going to be coming to her house. I said, "In fact, it will only be me for a while." She looked up and thanked me for understanding.

We have to understand that people, especially those who have been alone for a long time, feel uncomfortable when many people, even though they have good intentions, make an appearance. It often makes the people we are trying to help feel uncomfortable and it has always been my goal to maintain, or restore, their dignity and pride.

This widowed lady, who outlived the rest of her family, has found herself living a long life and being, at the same time, very lonely. She had no surviving children, spouse or friends.

We arranged for her to meet with the neighbor who originally brought her to my attention and they hit it off very well. The neighbor's teenage daughter showed up with their mower and cut the grass. Another volunteer did some window replacements and other repairs in exchange for a good meal prepared with the food we had dropped off. It turned out that she is an excellent cook who likes to bake bread the old-fashioned way and cook meals from scratch. You cannot get the same results from frozen meals or from inexperienced hands. It seemed like the handyman was adopted and he had adopted her in return. It is very nice to drive by and see the neighbor on the front porch talking and her daughter cutting the grass, and then driving by later in the day, seeing the handyman's truck there.

I received a letter from her telling me how her life has been filled with the joy these good people have brought and from the help we have given. I want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for Caring and Sharing. Due to the fact that her nominal social security check could not meet her expenses, she needed our help bringing her utilities up to date, getting her some much needed food and most of all, networking her with God loving, caring people like all of you and those who are now part of her life. Once again thank you for Caring and Sharing.

Health and Happiness, God Bless Everyone, WC

Please Help: Make checks payable to: The Time Is Now to Help, P.O. Box 70, Pell Lake, WI 53157. 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.

A Special Thank You to: Glenn & Jeanne Dyer in memory of Theresa Dimiceli, Bill & Lois McEssy, Phil & Joan Parisi, Don & Jean Smith, Dr. & Mrs. Mark Brower, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Roche, Mr. & Mrs. Vold - in memory of Rose Clifton, Mr. & Mrs. Thompson - in memory of Herb Sigmund, Mr. & Mrs. Schopp – in memory of Sandra Jean Arnold, Mr. & Mrs. Cutshall – in honor of Steve & Marilyn Carlson's wedding, 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 donation box in your business, please call 262-249-7000.

Antique Appraisal Day: Scott Lancour, owner of Lake Geneva Antique Mall, will be hosting the 4th Antique Appraisal Day on October 13, 2007. They are located at 829 Williams Street in Lake Geneva. The appraisals will be held from 10:00 – 5:00 pm. Bring your antiques for appraisal, maximum 3 items, and a \$3 donation per item will go to *The Time Is Now to Help*.

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 in only a few moments.

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.

Much Needed Cars: Please consider helping someone in dire need of a car in order to get to work and support their family. Instead of trading in the car, donate it to The Time Is Now To Help and receive a tax deduction for the full value. Please Care & Share.

Please visit: HYPERLINK "<http://www.TimeIsNowToHelp.org>"

May we be an Example of Goodness by the Life We Live.

Mom, I Love You

Unity of Spirit - Communities of Friends

