

Dear WC,

My mother encouraged me to write this letter to bring attention to a senior citizen who needs assistance. I was not aware of The Time Is Now and how you help people in need.

When I went to visit a friend of mine I noticed an elderly man trying to work in his yard. When I was returning home several hours later I observed the same elderly man still working in his yard. As I looked around, I saw that he had not gotten very far. He was taking small steps, slowly bending, picking up debris off his grass and putting it in a pile. The next day when I went to my friends' I noticed the man was still working in his yard. This time I decided on the way to my friend's house to help. I went up to the man and introduced myself. He looked at me and said, "Hi." When I offered to help him, he said no, he could do it himself. I tried to help but he insisted that he did not want any help.

When I went past his house again several days later, I saw him still in his yard picking up sticks. I stopped to say hello. When he looked up and responded I asked if I could give him a hand. He said, "Absolutely not. I can do it."

Over time I have seen this man out in his yard several times. I have noticed he has become even slower but now I also see him crying. I stopped once and could see he was very embarrassed. He had been sniffing and rubbing his eyes. He said he had a cold but I have observed him on several occasions crying. I could see he was very sad. My mother said I should tell you about him and give you his address.

Thank You,

A Concerned Neighbor

Dear Readers,

The person that wrote the letter was correct, this man needed our help. When I went to the house for the first time, it took several minutes before my knock on the door was answered. I was very patient since I am used to waiting and giving plenty of time for those inside to answer. When the door opened I could see the man was very sad and he had been crying. I introduced myself and told him about The Time Is Now. I could see there was a confused expression on his face as to why I was even there. He was not able to grasp that I was there to help. I told him that on many other occasions over the years help was given to our fellow Americans who needed a hand up. With that I could see some of his uneasiness lessening as to who I was, but his sadness remained unchanged. After much time together that day, I found out that this man had lost all his brothers and sisters and he was the last surviving family member. Also, financially he was having a very difficult time. I discovered that he had very little food. Some simple spaghetti noodles, no sauce, and some potatoes. His electricity had been shut off but he claimed that he really did

not need it and had gotten used to being without it. I discovered that his social security check, for some reason, had stopped several months before and he told me he thought that the government had run out of money because he had heard several years ago that social security was not going to go on forever. Of course dealing with the government, it took some time to get him his checks back but they are coming once again. We had his electricity turned back on, and paid some in advance. We actually took him shopping, which took a few hours because we had to coax him to buy everything that he needed. He told me he was accustomed to eating very little and this was more than generous. We continued shopping that day until his cart was full of nutritious food.

I cannot tell you how humbling it was to shop with this elderly man. When I would finally persuade him to tell me an item that he particularly liked, he slipped and told me “I haven’t tasted that in a few years.” I thought to myself, “Where are we living? Isn’t this the United States? Why is this man, who worked at the same job for 46 years being deprived of a good meal at his age? That was when I became determined that the rest of his cart was going to be filled and we needed to Care and Share until this elderly man could realize hope, comfort, and care without his daily sorrow of being broke and alone. Part of me felt very good for helping but another part was saddened because I was wondering to myself, “How many others are out there that need our help?” At one time, he had caught me and said, “Your eyes are starting to look like mine used to before I met you.” I looked at him and apologized. I said, “I am catching your cold.” and we both began to laugh. Humor then lifted our spirits and we made the most of our day.

I had to ask him, “Why didn’t you let the young man help you? It would be good for him and would have made him happy.” He responded, “I would have felt guilty if I could not offer to pay him something. I knew all I had in the house was eighty-six cents and what kind of pay is that for a young man?”

I said that the young man was not expecting anything. He was offering to help out of the goodness of his heart. I then told him he was the one who wrote the letter asking for someone to help him. With that he asked, “You mean that young man told you about me?” I responded that he was. Then he said, “I wondered who had told you about me.”

When we returned to his house and unpacked all of the groceries I told him his electric was paid and he also had a credit for the future. He sat in his chair, put his hands over his face and began to cry. I put my hand on his shoulder and after a few moments I told him. “Everything is fine.” He said, “I know, but I can’t help feeling thankfulness for all I have. I was wondering every day before we met how much better off I would be if I would just pass away.” My heart sank and I told this man who has already professed to me how much he believes in God that giving up on the precious gift of life would be a terrible thing. He looked up with a half smile and said, “I know, that is the only thing that has been keeping me going and now I have help.”

Together we have networked several people that check in on this man regularly. They bring him any necessary items and also an occasional homemade dinner. The man is such a different person now. In fact he lets the young man and a few of his friends clean up his yard when needed. He understands now that it feels good to help others. He also knows now that he is not alone. His hopelessness and sadness has disappeared. It has been

replaced with our kindness, hope and our love.

I want to thank everyone for helping, Caring and Sharing. Once again we have made our communities in our great United States of America a better place to live.

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, Richard & Jean Honeyager, Phil & Joan Parisi, Jeff Jacobson, Doug & Jean Chase, N. Bidwill of The Pacific Company, S. Thiele, Drs. Scot & Mona Hodkiewicz, Gary & Carol Marvin, Joyce & John Kirkwood, James & Janice Batten, J Palmbach & J Lessor - in honor of Audrey Hersko's Birthday, 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.

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.

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.Time](http://www.TimeIsNowToHelp.org) Is Now To Help.org

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

Mom, I Love You

Unity of Spirit - Communities of Friends

