

Dear W.C.,

I know a wonderful woman who needs help. She is a single mother of three and she has been fighting to make it on her own. We have been helping this woman as much as we can and I know her situation very well. You see, she is my sister. Her husband had an accident and died from surgical complications. After she withstood the shock of losing him she had to make arrangements for her three children so she could go back to work fulltime. The reality of getting a job, when you have no skills, and being older than the many other job applicants was a challenge in itself. Her determination did land her an \$8.35 per hour job, but that really doesn't go very far. After you take out taxes, rent, food, gas, electric, phone, and car repairs, she was always running short.

Her old high mileage car recently broke down for the last time. The neighbor mechanic, who has been helping keep her car running, said it would be fruitless to even purchase parts for the car. Even with his free labor it wasn't worth the constant expense. She maintains her job by doing everything she can to get a ride and when she can't she rides a bicycle. When you have three children to be home for, there isn't really time for riding a bike several miles in each direction.

We are just making our monthly budget on a week-to-week basis and whenever we do come up with a few extra dollars we have given them to her and we will continue to do that. Presently there is just not enough there to keep her afloat. She is desperately afraid of losing her apartment.

Thank you,
A Very Concerned Sister

Dear Readers,

I went to visit the woman and her children. They live in a small but well kept apartment. The mother was very shy and embarrassed while explaining her situation. In fact, her sister had encouraged her to write many times in the past but she could not bring herself to do it. It's hard to put your story on a piece of paper and ask for help.

It is often even harder to explain your situation face to face with someone you just met. This mother had pride and dignity due to her hard work but she was filled with shame over still having to resort to asking for help. I often have to share my story of my own childhood spent in poverty in order to lift the barrier of shame and bewilderment. Once I get them past the tears and embarrassment and convince them I understand what they are going through we can move on to finding a resolution to their financial situation. Where can they cut back even more? Is it food, shelter, clothing, transportation, gasoline to get to work, the endless list of expenses seems to go on and on. Add to that the emotional needs of three children that lost their father and this mother is dealing with a lot.

Together through The Time is Now to Help we are there to Care and Share, to make a difference and remove some of this pain and suffering.

After looking at their car I agreed with the mechanics assessment that it was beyond repair. The wipers were not working, two of the doors did not close properly, the muffler was rusted through, the tires were nearly bald, the engine had a knock and leaked oil. It was time to retire this car with 197,000 miles. Together we provided her with a reliable used car, which to her and the family felt like a new one. This car, of course, did not come with a warranty because it was too old. Thanks to the person who helped us get the car and also offered to help with future repairs, it was quite a gift, a shared blessing. Just keeping gas in the car is a financial burden, but if you need even a minor repair costing several hundred dollars, it would be devastating.

I managed to talk to the landlord to get a \$35 monthly rent reduction. It made sense to the landlord to receive rent consistently on time, not falling behind. Every little bit does help. At the same time I spoke with her employer. He said he could not do much more than an additional 45 cents an hour, but once again this would make a difference in the budget. Between the rent reduction and the small raise she had \$107.00 more dollars in her budget each month.

Then together we helped with much needed food and directions to a clothing assistance center where there is often excellent clothing available – once again, people just do not know where the clothing centers are located. After the mother went there with the children to get clothing, she told me how gracious and kind the people were helping them with clothes. The children were very proud to finally have clothing that fit and did not have holes in it.

Finally, the utilities were caught up and paid a little into the future.

We left the situation for the better thanks to God's direction and all of you Caring and Sharing. The mother asked me to thank all of you for helping her humble and very thankful family.

Several weeks later I was in the neighborhood and saw the mother in the car with the children. They didn't see me, but I saw them. Just looking at their faces I could see how much happier and more relaxed they all were. Then I thought what their life would still be like if we had not been there to give that helping hand. They would not be in their car. They would not have the clothing I saw them wearing. There would be hunger from cutting back on meal portions. There would not be that heartfelt gratitude that together we all put in place helping our fellow creations.

I thank all of you for caring and sharing. Please let us continue to do our good works.

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.

Upcoming Fundraiser July 6th: The Delavan Downtown Business Assoc. will be having their Second Annual Fundraiser to benefit The Time Is Now to Help. They will be selling a hotdog lunch from 10a.m.-2p.m. Sunday, July 6, 2008 during downtown Delavan's "The Car's Time Forgot" car show. They also will be selling raffle tickets with many wonderful prizes. The food stand will be located on the south side of the 200 block of Walworth Ave., next to Pet Pals in downtown Delavan. Thank you all who contribute, volunteer and participate in this wonderful event.

A Special Thank You to: Paper Dolls, Interstate Insurance Group, Kenneth & Nova Kyburz, Mary Dunbar, Steve Thornton, Evelyn Pearson, Margarie Egger, Johanna Sterken, Ronald & Carolyn Bloch, Harry & Phyllis Tiggemann, James & Janice Batten, Flitcroft Septic Systems, Daniel & Angie Schmidt, Kunes Country Ford & Kunes Country Chevrolet & Cadillac, Paul Ziegler, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Phyllis Weeden in memory of Ken Weeden, Jay Ieronimo, Alan Homan, Richard Mertes, Elizabeth Cox, Walter Zimmerman Jr, Michael Kuhl, Virginia Moser, Donald & Marie Voss, J.D. Development, Bill & Lois McEssy, 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.

Desperately Needed Cars: Once again we have a desperate need for used cars. If anyone has a car they are thinking of trading in or an extra car you are not using, please think of those who are in desperate need of transportation to get them to and from work so they can provide the daily necessities for their families. Without reliable transportation it makes their situation even more desperate. Please Care & Share.

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.

Goodsearch for The Time Is Now: Search the web with www.goodsearch.com and help to raise funds for The Time Is Now to Help. Just make www.goodsearch.com your homepage, pick The Time Is Now as your charity and the rest is simple. You can even shop some of your favorite online retailers. It is a fun and easy way to help 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.

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