

Dear W.C.,

My grandparents are having a hard time. I have shown many of your articles to them to encourage them to write you a letter if they need help. They tell me everything is fine but I know there is something wrong. My grandmother has not been her usual cheerful self these past eight months. They used to invite my mom and I over for dinner every Sunday, but that hasn't happened for a long time. My mom tells me they need to stretch their food and every little bit counts. My mom has tried talking with them, but my grandparents told her she had enough to worry about. My dad left us three years ago. My mom works both a full and part time job. Pretty soon I will be old enough to get a job to help out, but for right now my mom tells me she wants me to concentrate on my school work and having fun. She tells me the world of adults is right around the corner and there will be a lifetime of work waiting for me.

Please find enclosed my grandparents' address. They had their phone disconnected about four months ago. My mom said that was the only way they could make ends meet. I am learning what that means.

We have been collecting your column and sharing it with my grandparents. Please help them to be happy again.

A Concerned Granddaughter

Dear Readers,

When I received the letter, I noted the beautiful pictures drawn on the stationary and the neat penmanship. This nice request for help from the granddaughter led to much needed assistance.

It turns out her grandparents were farmers, they are both near 80 now and they had sold their small farm many years ago. Since they never contributed much to Social Security they do not receive much of a monthly income. They were fair, honest, hardworking people.

These fair, honest, hardworking people were struggling to the point of having their telephone disconnected and eating so simply they were too embarrassed to even invite their daughter and granddaughter over for what passed

for a meal. The grandmother was living in fear of becoming homeless, of not being able to pay the rent.

I had called the daughter, advising her when I would be visiting. She asked if it would be okay if her daughter was there to provide a much needed introduction to these two proud Americans. When I arrived the granddaughter was standing by their side. At first the grandmother was a little bewildered about who I was, asking me if I was with the government. I assured them I was not and after about a half hour of conversation the grandfather began to open up with me. He said it is usually the private sector that takes the bull by the horns and does what's right. I couldn't agree with that more. Don't get me wrong, we have a lot of good government leaders. The problem is that some of them do not understand how our economy and our people need help.

I asked the grandparents about the old car I saw outside. They answered, "It's still running, if we could only put some gas in it." They had no money for gas, no phone, hardly any food, but they were paying their rent and paying for their medications. The grandfather told me, "The government should put their foot down and control the ever increasing fuel prices. I have been told gas will be \$7.00 a gallon if we do not put our foot down now. These prices are crippling our country and driving everyone into poverty. The middle class is disappearing and low income people are suffering even more."

We helped these elderly by getting their telephone turned on and paid into the future, helped with gas and electric utilities, I helped steer them to assistance with paying for their medications, and provided them with some much needed food. In exchange they gave me a promise to allow their daughter to pitch in for meals on Sunday so again the four of them could gather as a family. The direction for medication assistance helped them out tremendously financially so they could maintain a budget that even their meager income could support. Also we helped guide them through some more assistance available to them through Social Services. With all of this we set them on their way to once again being self-sufficient and proud, as they had been for many decades as hard working Americans.

As I concluded my third and final follow-up visit, I saw the scrapbook the granddaughter and daughter had been using to save all her Time Is Now to Help newspaper clippings. I wanted to say goodbye to the granddaughter so I looked around and found her standing by a window, with her back to us. When she turned,

I could see she had been crying. “What’s the matter?” I asked. She said, “Nothing. I just look forward to one day seeing this story in the paper so I can cut it out and put it in my scrapbook. You will write about us, won’t you?” “Only if you and your family want me to. I never put anyone’s names in the newspaper. You have some proud grandparents, and I would not want your grandfather getting mad at me.”, I said, as I could see her starting to cry again. “Come on now, what is the matter? You are acting just like your grandparents when I first met them and they said that everything was fine, they didn’t need any help. Since they listened to you and allowed me to help them, things are much better now, aren’t they? So tell me what’s on your mind.” She said, “That’s just it. I am happy now, but I used to miss seeing them on Sunday so much. We didn’t have to eat food – just be together. I love my grandparents.”

The grandmother heard her and came over to her. They hugged each other and cried together. The grandmother said, “I am sorry. I will never let poverty separate us again.”

I want to thank everyone for helping, for Caring and Sharing. Once again together we returned happiness to a family in need. We brought them out of the fear, pain and sorrow of the grips of poverty. I want to thank the newspapers for their networking and everyone else through all their agencies, churches, and schools for networking. Without this networking we would not be able to find all of these proud people who are suffering through the pain of poverty.

God Bless everyone. God bless this granddaughter’s love for wanting to be with her grandparents.

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, Donald & Gladys Keith, Claudia Siesennop, Sharon Shukas, Sandra Wolf, 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.TimeIsNowToHelp.org