

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

Dear W.C.,

10/06/08

I am going through a very difficult time. Could you please help?

A Young Mother

Dear Readers,

It is becoming much more commonplace for young couples to give up on their relationship after only a handful of years. As soon as things become tough, an illness, children, job loss... they do not want to be responsible and get through it together.

The situation brought to my attention was a young woman about 22 years old, with two children, ages four and five. The complaint from the mother was the father had left them, and he was not paying child support. I was told that the relationship in the beginning, prior to the birth of their children, had been happy go lucky. He worked, she did not, and they decided to move in together.

After the first child was born she said the responsibility made their relationship much more serious. Suddenly they had new expenses, such as diapers, formula, and all the responsibilities of raising a baby. After the second child was born life seemed to get too complicated for the father of the children. He began to stay away a few days each week, and then one day never came back home.

The young mother finds herself in the position of asking for help from relatives but they complain they are just making ends meet themselves. They tell her, "You started the family; it's your responsibility to provide for them." I asked her if she had a job and she replied she was waiting on day care subsidy. She could not go on job interviews without day care.

When I went through the cupboards they were very empty. I had asked about going to the food pantry. She said that she had gone to two different food pantries. She received enough food from one to last four or

five days and was told she could only come twice a month. The next food pantry she went to only allowed her to go once a month but they gave her enough food to last eight or nine days. If the second food pantry had known she had already received food from another pantry, they probably would not have given her any food. We need to have enough food supply in the food pantries to allow for additional assistance if necessary. Ideally the food pantries could monitor the visits to see if a job is obtained or if the situation has improved to the point where they can stand on their own. In the meantime we need to be able to feed people who have fallen into an emergency food situation.

One of the prerequisites for food stamps and assistance is that you have to file for child support. In this situation the father was dodging the system. They were getting reports he was going to work every day but had told the system that he was not working. He was being paid cash so there was no record of any income.

I managed to have a conversation with him, reminding him of his responsibilities he was neglecting. When I asked him about his children he told me in a quiet voice that their memories haunt him and he feels guilty. When I asked him when the last time he saw his children was, he replied, "It has been over nine months."

Sometimes I run across fathers that have no sense of responsibility at all, no sense of shame, no feelings of guilt, and no sense of love for their children they bring into this world. Some fathers cannot even be found and others have been apprehended and are sitting in jail or in work release programs. They are allowed to go and work and earn money for child support and pay approximately \$17 a day for staying at the jail. Eventually they get their lives back on track to continue to provide for child care and they are released from jail. Others skirt the system by claiming they are not working.

I could tell from talking with this father there was remorse and love for his children and the mother. I told him how his children, thanks to the mother, had reached out to strangers with caring and sharing hearts. I told him how together we provided much needed food, clothing, a sense of hope, and help for the mother to obtain a job. His shame was such that he said he

wished he was there to help. I asked “Why weren’t you?” He had no answer.

In the end he did come through and it has been several months now that they have been reunited. He has obtained a better job, the mother has a part time job, and together they are making their budget. Together they are taking care of the family they started. Once again, through all of us caring and sharing, we have helped some young children. We have removed their pains of hunger, bewilderment and fear over what the mother was going to do next. We helped counsel them through the networking of other volunteers showing them that by the two of them working together, even during trying times, the rewards of a family, the love from your children, and the gift to love back is worth the effort to create a family.

I received a thank you note from this previously broken family, signed by all of them, including the children, thanking us for taking the time to make a difference in their lives. I want to thank everyone for their Caring and Sharing. I wish and pray that all broken families could be resolved and reunited like this one. I thank all of you for helping.

Health and Happiness, God Bless Everyone, WC

J.D. Development \$25,000 Matching Grant: We are almost half way to our \$25,000 goal. Please use this opportunity to double every dollar you give. God Bless you for Caring and Sharing for those in need.

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: J.D. Development, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Ron, Kerrie, Hailey, Zoe, Noah, Gabe & Mason Vyskocil, Kunes Country Ford & Kunes Country Chevrolet & Cadillac, Mark & Natalie Reno, Paper Dolls, David & Mary Riesland, Geri Hinton, Margarie Egger, Georgiana Micholas, 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.

Needed Cars: Once again we have a 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 Is Now To Help.org