

Dear W.C.,

1/3/11

I am writing to ask for help for the disabled person I care for. I recently took over the full time care of a woman that is very disabled. I took over the job for a friend of mine when they said they could no longer care for her. This disabled woman does not receive enough disability or assistance to make ends meet. She does not have the equipment, such as a hoist, or even a proper wheelchair, to make caring for her even safe. My friend that left the job was not caring for her properly due to injuring her back while lifting her into her old wheelchair. I can't believe there is not more assistance available for her. It would be much more costly for the state to place her in a home, and this woman does not want to be in a home. I took over the job only because I am out of work right now and I need to put food on the table. I also care for this woman and know how hard she is struggling to get by. I have gone to the food pantry for her. I had my Christmas with my family at her small apartment so she would not be alone. I am a single mother with two teenage children and we have no other family. We put up a small tree for her and my daughter bought her a blanket for Christmas with money she earned babysitting. This woman is in need of help with her rent and her utilities. Any assistance you could offer would be most appreciated.

Caring Caregiver

Dear Readers,

I called the caregivers cell phone. She answered the phone after several rings and asked for me to hold on. I waited and listened as it seemed she was in the middle of assisting the disabled woman. After several minutes she came back on the line and asked who she was speaking to. When I made my introduction I heard her say to another person, "It's W.C. I told you he would call." She explained she was at work and had told the disabled woman who was calling. I heard the woman in the background say, "Tell him to come over to meet us." The caregiver gave me the address and I was on my way.

I arrived at an older apartment building that did not look to be easily handicap accessible. I knocked on the door of a first floor apartment. The two women were in the small living room waiting for me. They invited me inside and immediately began to talk. I could see there was a lot of assistance necessary to make her life more comfortable. The apartment was much too small for the older bulky wheelchair the woman was propped up in. She looked uncomfortable and I asked why she did not have a proper wheelchair. She explained she was only approved to receive a new one every few years. She had to use one someone had donated to her friends' church or she would be completely without. The caretaker told me she needs to be moved as much as possible to keep from getting pressure sores. I told her we would get her a new wheelchair right away. I also noticed she did not have a proper bed or lift to get her in and out of bed. The care giver said it was extremely dangerous for both of them when she lifted her in and out of bed. She pointed out how she had to prop the disabled woman up on pillows since she did not have an electric hospital type bed that would safely lift her into different positions.

The disabled woman spoke to me about her condition. She had been disabled for over fifteen years due to a car accident. She had been hit by an uninsured drunk driver. She was a paraplegic with limited use of her arms. She said when she was stronger she had time to do applications for assistance, but never was successful. Now she is unable to fight for the help she needs and they have reduced her disability. She asked me how they think she can get by on less than she did fifteen years ago, even though as she gets older she is progressively getting worse.

I was happy to deliver some items that had recently been donated to The Time Is Now to Help, including a very nice hospital bed and lift. The bed, lift, and new wheelchair would improve the quality of her life tremendously. The women were moved to tears. As the disabled woman cried I and her caretaker consoled her. The disabled woman said, "I am sorry but I cannot believe there are such good people who care about me and others like me. I have been so alone." I explained how everyone who supports The Time Is Now cares about her and all our fellow creations.

I then spoke to the two women about their housing situations. It turns out they were both having a hard time. I asked the caregiver how far away she lived and she said about fifteen minutes. I asked the women if they had thought of moving in together. They both admitted they had but were too embarrassed to bring it up to each other. I called a landlord I knew sometimes had handicap accessible housing available. He said he had a place that would work fine for them and he would make the rent very reasonable. They both were smiling when they heard this. I told the women The Time Is Now to Help would help.

We visited their new rental together. There was a ramp, handicap accessible bathroom, an open wheelchair accessible shower, a new shower wheelchair, lower cabinets in the kitchen, wheelchair accessible countertops... The women were so excited over such seemingly simple things that make all the difference in a disabled person's life. I told the landlord they would take the rental and The Time Is Now to Help would be paying the first month's rent and security deposit. The women were speechless over this. The caregiver said her children and friends would help them pack and move. The caregiver was also at the end of her lease and said her landlord would be returning her security deposit. This would enable her to pay her overdue utilities so she could put the utilities for the new place in her name. In order to help these women get back on a secure budget I put together a group of volunteers to visit several times a week. They also bring her a meal at each visit.

After a period of time of living together I called to see how the women were getting by. They both were happy to report the improvements in both of their lives. The handicapped woman was now able to get around much better. The lift made both the women's lives much easier. The government assistance that was due to her years ago, we finally helped get in place. This made her entire situation more bearable. She also was enjoying the electric bed and shower wheelchair. For years the disabled woman was only able to have sponge baths when she had competent home care. She said it was a luxury to take a shower now and she felt clean again. There are so many things we take for granted. Getting in and out of bed unassisted, showering when we feel the need, using the restroom unaided, preparing our own

food, washing our clothes, and so much more. The care giver was happy in their new living arrangements. They had become more like family and friends to each other since moving in together. The women said they count their blessings daily. Thank you for your Caring and Sharing enabling us to offer these blessings to these women in need. God Bless Everyone.

Please do not forget our Christmas Wish \$25,000 Matching Grant. Your donations will be matched dollar for dollar until we reach our goal of \$25,000. Once again, thank you and God bless our generous providers of this wonderful opportunity. After Christmas we reach our most difficult fund raising time. It is also the most trying time for our fellow American's living in fear of losing their shelter, not having enough food, and needing utility assistance during our harsh winter. Please find this matching grant an encouragement to donate after the holiday season. God bless you for Caring and Sharing.

*Health & Happiness, God Bless Everyone, W.C.*

**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 Very Special Thank You:** Michael & Sue Borden, William H. & Lois J. McEssy Foundation, Unilock, Lake Geneva Economic Development Corporation, Paul Ziegler, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Steven & Deidred Trumble, Beach & Associates, Distribution & Transportation Service, E2 Services, Bernard Labovitch, 4 Aces Bridge Club, Martin O'Brien, Lee & Betty Hayles, Kenneth Sullivan, Robin Bender, Ron Bender, Lori Slotty, Lexie Baroni, Michael Hurlburt, Julie Partridge, Debra Guzman, Bev Boughton, John Pomeranz, Stephen Bukovack, Deborah Teschke, Jan Susee, Paul Jensen, Ron & Jacki Wuttke, Ruth Hanson, Duane & Nancy Dirksmeyer, Joan Murphy, Joanne & Aimee Anderson, Geraldine Hinton, Dan & Maureen Winkler, Bonita Breit, Heather Waters, Marie Waters, Sarah Stodola, Diane Preston in honor of her mother Audrey Wunderlin-Hersko, W.C. Family Resource Center/Food Pantry volunteers, and all the God loving volunteers of all our caring food pantries, 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.

**Memorials:** Audrey Wunderlin-Hersko in memory of her husband Donald Wunderlin.

**We Desperately Need Cars:** Please donate a used car to help our fellow American's get to work and other daily necessities.

**Goodsearch for The Time Is Now:** Search the web with [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and help to raise funds for The Time Is Now to Help. Just make [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) your homepage and pick The Time Is Now to Help as your charity.

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