

Dear W.C.,

1/24/11

I have seen an elderly woman outside with her dog by her trailer. She looks very destitute and I am very worried about her. She seems very thin and frail. Her trailer is in very bad shape. It is always dark when I go by so I worry that her utilities are disconnected. I don't know what to do about this poor woman and I worry about her all the time. I have left a few bags of food for her and her dog on her stairs anonymously. I am unfortunately not in the position to offer much financial help myself as I just get by month to month and I have three children. I offered to help her with household cleaning and repairs once but she turned me away. I think she is embarrassed and does not trust my good intentions. I know you are very good with people in this position.

A Concerned Bystander

Dear Readers,

I am always worried about senior citizens that seem to fall through the cracks of our society. So many try to get by on their own, with no family or friends to help them when they fall ill or have financial difficulties. I knew this senior citizen's situation was an emergency and needed to be dealt with immediately.

I drove through the snowy gravel driveway to the address supplied by the woman that wrote the letter. I was very disheartened to see the state of the trailer I arrived at. It almost seemed to be falling off the cement blocks it stood on for years. The wooden stairs leading to the door were falling away from the trailer and the roof was falling in with patches all over. I had to compose myself to face what I knew I would find.

Just then I saw the elderly woman coming out the door and trying to carefully come down the stairs as her little dog tugged on the leash. She seemed to not see me at first and I watched for a minute more as I thought of a way to approach her. I got out of my car and approached the woman. I introduced myself as she looked at me with fear. I tried to reassure her but she seemed unnaturally fearful. She picked up her dog and held it tightly to herself and told me, "Go away. Leave us alone." I noticed she was shaking from the cold and seemed very frail. I tried to tell her who I was and that I was from The Time Is Now to Help. She did not seem to know who we were. I told her I would leave her some newspaper articles to read that would help explain who I was. I asked her if she would read them and I handed her a bag of food I had picked up on my way to her trailer. I told her I would be back tomorrow to talk some more. She told me she would read the newspapers and possibly talk to me the next day.

The next day I returned. After carefully navigating the old steps, I knocked on the door. She immediately asked me why I was there to help her and who had told me about her. I explained how I had been helping senior citizens for several decades. I told her about my own mother and my poverty stricken youth. I wanted her to not feel ashamed to need our help. I asked her if I could come inside but she would not let me in. I asked why her home was so dark. She looked down and said she could not afford her utilities. She said she had been sick several months previous and had fallen behind in everything.

Just then a neighbor was driving by, stopped the car, got out, and yelled, "Hello." The elderly woman said hello back. The neighbor approached me and held out his hand. I shook hands with the man and he told me, "God bless you for all you do." The elderly woman asked her neighbor if he knew me. The neighbor gave us the best introduction, as he went on and on about The Time Is Now to Help. After a few minutes he excused himself and said, "Good luck, you need to listen to W.C." With that the elderly woman invited me inside.

The elderly woman told me she had been a widow for over nine years, living alone with her best and only friend her dog. She hugged her dog, closed her eyes and whispered in her ear, "My dear friend you carry my heart." After a long hug she slowly stood up and opened her tear filled eyes. She turned away but not before I saw her love and compassion for her canine companion, who unconditionally loved her in return. Poverty, hunger, darkness... nothing would hinder their unconditional love for one another.

I looked around the very uninhabitable trailer. The ceiling was rotted and falling down, and the windows leaked cold air and had ice forming on the inside of the glass. I asked about her seemingly nonexistent heat, and she did not answer.

We talked for over an hour. At the conclusion I asked her about relocating. She told me she could not; she had been living there for almost forty years. I knew I could not leave her in a condemned trailer. The dog sneezed and coughed. The woman frantically pampered her friend. Then I said, "You know I have a much better place for both of you and it would be much healthier for your friend." She looked up at me with tears in her eyes again. She said, "I would just die if anything happened to my little girl."

We talked about relocating to a nice, warm, newer place. She finally accepted our offer of help. Together we relocated the elderly widow, her dog, and her few possessions to a triplex owned by a great, God loving landlord wanting to help. I have been waiting to place the right person in this special apartment. With very low rent and no security deposit it was just right for her budget.

Together we moved the woman and helped with the utilities. We provided food for her and her beloved canine friend. I visited several weeks later and found the elderly widow much healthier, much happier, and her best friend even remembered me.

God bless all of you for making our help possible. Thank you for Caring and Sharing with those in desperate need.

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, E2 Services, Jerry Oglesby, Jerry's Majestic Marine, Bernard Labovitch, Kunes' Country Ford-Lincoln-Mercury, Reed's Marine, Tom & Mary Johnson, Tim Keiderling, Martin O'Brien, Sidney Johnson, Donald & Mildred Carl, Jerome & Susan Kuta, David & Jill Schaefer, Richard & Virginia Watson, William & Jean Isaacson, Lynn Rozina, Roger Gilbert, Janice Stubbs, Landon Petrie, Jr., Eric & Erica Lawton, Roland & Diane Schroeder, George & Debra Reuss, Jr., Adele Pavis, Daniel Przewoznik, Howard Bryant, Mary Peter, 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: Lee Gile family in memory of John Gile. Lois Zingle family in memory of Elmer Zingle.

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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 and pick The Time Is Now to Help as your charity.

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