

## Summertime Foundation \$5,000 Matching Grant

2/21/11

We are very happy to announce Summertime Foundation has again graciously given us the opportunity of a \$5,000 Matching Grant. These funds are desperately needed right now to offer assistance to the many poverty stricken in our local communities. Please consider donating at this time, knowing your funds will be matched dollar for dollar by the Summertime Foundation. Thank you for continuing to support our mission during these difficult economic times. Your Caring & Sharing is enabling us to offer assistance to children, senior citizens, and disabled fellow creations living in the daily struggle of poverty. Thank you to the Summertime Foundation for this fundraising opportunity.

Dear W.C.,

I am very concerned for my neighbor. She is physically disfigured and disabled, living on her own. She is renting the apartment next to mine. I never see any family or friends visit. We have become friends over the past year and I am very worried about her. She has no furniture other than an old folding tray and sagging bed. She is very thin and I have brought food over on several occasions. She eats it like she hasn't eaten in weeks. Whenever I have extra I bring it to her. I invited her to spend Christmas at my apartment with my small family. She didn't want to come because she said she didn't have anything to wear. She confessed she only had two sets of clothing and they were both dirty. For Christmas my daughter and I decided to buy her a set of clothes and made her cookies. I also always offer to wash her clothing when I go to the laundry room.

I really don't know what else to do to help her. I don't feel we are close enough for me to ask more personal questions about her finances and how she is getting by. I know you have a lot of experience with this and feel she is very worthy of your assistance.

Thank you,  
Worried Friend & Neighbor

Dear Readers,

I called the worried neighbor to confirm the friend was at home. We spoke for a few minutes and the neighbor was very appreciative I had answered her letter. I told her I would be there as soon as possible.

I arrived at the apartment building and a young woman ran out to greet me. She said, "Are you W.C.?" I assured her I was and she ushered me into the apartment building as she told me some more details. She said since writing her letter she had gotten up the nerve to ask the neighbor some questions about her finances. She managed to just pay her rent with her assistance payments but was unable to pay for any food or clothing. She kept her utility payments low by leaving the thermostat at an extremely cold setting and did not use many lights. She knocked on her friend's door and introduced me so her friend would not feel uneasy about my visit.

I walked into a barren, cold apartment. The room had one old chair and a tray table beside it. I could tell the woman was very thin, even with an oversized sweatshirt on. She asked me why I was there to see her. I explained to the woman about The Time Is Now to Help. I could tell she was somewhat learning disabled, besides her disfiguring physical disabilities, but she understood everything I was saying. She looked down and I could feel her embarrassment. I told her it was alright, we were there to help her.

After a long pause she finally said, "Yes I need help. I have not eaten all day and I am very hungry." I had brought food in my car, knowing she needed it after what the neighbor had told me. I told her I would be right back and ran to my car to get the food. She looked surprised when I returned with a warm roasted chicken dinner. I helped her to sit at her tray table and eat. She wanted me to eat with her but I told her to go ahead, I had already eaten. I watched as she ate everything before her. When she was finished, I told her I wanted to talk about how she was doing with her bills. She told me about her disability payment and how it barely paid her rent. I asked when the last time she bought food or clothing was. She could not remember. I told her we could help her. I will never forget her face as she began to cry and said softly, "Yes please."

We talked some more and she told me how her family was now all gone. Her mother had died several years ago and had always cared for her. Her father was never part of her life. She had no sisters or brothers. She was all alone. Her disabilities were not severe, but were enough to keep her from obtaining a job. She was slow to process information and slow to reply, yet seemed to understand everything we spoke about.

I told her to start by turning her thermostat up enough to keep her warm. The apartment was so cold I was starting to feel a chill. I promised her we would help her pay her utility bill. We also paid her upcoming rent payment to enable her to have money saved up for food and future financial needs. We supplied her with food and clothing. Every time we helped her she cried in disbelief. She did not understand why complete strangers were helping her. She explained how she had no other friends except for her neighbor. She said no one ever had

any interest in her, except to make fun of her. She once again began to cry. I consoled her, telling her, her good neighbor will be joined by many who volunteer at The Time Is Now, to be her friend. I waited for her response as she spoke slowly and asked, "Really?" I once again explained about the Time is Now to Help and how all of you and I share the same beliefs of helping our fellow creations.

We found additional financial aid that she was eligible for. With this additional help we set a budget for her that enabled her to have heat, good food and a roof over her head. Once a year we would have to help her with utilities. She now has three additional friends that take turns visiting her. After a period of time I revisited her. She was a completely different woman. She had gained about 15 pounds and was so excited to tell me about her new friends. She showed me the bed we had provided for her and invited me to sit at the table and chairs her new friends had found for her. We visited for an hour. I thanked God for this new happy woman. Her tears replaced with laughter. Her hunger replaced with health. Her loneliness filled by friends. I thank all of you, for once again, making a big difference.

God Bless all of you for making all our good works possible. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

*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:** Summertime foundation ,Michael & Sue Borden, Sprecher's Restaurant & Pub in Lake Geneva, Paper Dolls, Martin Business Group, Martin O'Brien, June Davidsen, Yvonne Mol, Thomas Grotelueschen, Michael & Francis Ukropin, Margarie Egger, Elizabeth Zabler, Albert & Ellen Burnell, Landon & Mary Petrie, Michael Burke, Frank Huml, Jr., Mary & Leon Sterken, Arthur & Doris Kull, Marcie Hollman & Bob Nordhaus, Fred & Cindy Lawton, John & Kristi Hugunin, Gerald & Marilyn Wilkin, James & Marilyn Dyer, Mae Porep, 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.

**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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