

Dear W.C.,

April 11, 2011

I have a friend that is having a very hard time feeding her children and keeping up with her rent. She does not know I am writing to you on her behalf. She is a good hardworking mom and has too much pride to write to The Time Is Now for help. I know because I have suggested it several times and her reply is always that she could never do that. She always says that she is not that bad off but I see how little she eats, I know she is behind on her rent, and I know her children need clothes and shoes. Her youngest child was born with some health problems that have put a real financial strain on the family. It also put a strain on her marriage and her husband walked out on her and the children several months ago.

I really know she is struggling and she needs some guidance. Please help her.

A Devoted Friend

Dear Readers,

I paid a visit to the struggling mother and children along with the devoted friend that wrote the letter. We met in the parking lot of the apartment building where she lived. The friend pointed out the broken down looking car that belonged to the mother. She said it was hardly running and had left her stranded several times while taking her child to therapy and doctor appointments. In addition I noticed the tires were bald.

We knocked on the apartment door and when it was opened the mother was very surprised to see her friend at her apartment with a stranger. The friend introduced us. The mother looked upset her friend had written to me. I told her to not be angry with her friend, because she loved her and was concerned about her and the children's well-being. I asked her if she truly felt she and her children were in need of assistance. I immediately saw tears in her eyes. I knew she was hiding her poverty as best she could but it was not making her or her children's lives any easier. She invited us inside. We talked about The Time Is Now to Help and I answered her questions: Why we help? Who we Help? I asked about her job and if she was receiving any support from her husband. She said her job had reduced her hours below full-time and she no longer had health insurance. Her husband had been self employed and she knew if they went to court for child support he would lie about his income. She said he had been very verbally abusive and threatening. She was afraid to ask him for any help and did not even know how to contact him or where he was living.

She said she had given up all expenses that were not necessary. She did go to the food pantry but she still ran short on food by the end of the month. Her youngest child needed special

care when she worked due to his health problems. The grandmother helped a few days a week to reduce child care costs. He also needed therapy and regular doctor's visits. With gas prices so high, this was a real strain every time she had to drive to Milwaukee. I made several suggestions for her budget and further assistance that should be available to her. The Time Is Now to Help purchased tires for her car and some much needed repairs were completed. The car was older but the mechanic said it was in good enough working order to have repaired. We also provided food, clothing, and gas vouchers to help stretch her income until she was provided with the new assistance she was applying for.

At our last meeting I did a final check. When I first saw the children they were dressed in very worn clothing that did not fit. Their shoes should have been discarded long ago due to the holes. The mother had cried when I first commented, "Let's start by getting the children new clothes and shoes." Now they stood before me, all smiles, proudly showing me their new clothes and shoes. . The mother's car had new tires and she was happy to report, "The car starts all the time and I do not slip anymore because of the new tires." Their cupboards and refrigerator were full of good, healthy food. The mother was hugging her girlfriend who wrote the letter to The Time Is Now to Help. The mother really looked younger and was much healthier due to her not living in constant fear of homelessness and hunger. I talked to her boss and he had given her a raise. This helped her new budget.

Thanks to all of your Caring and Sharing we once again reduced the pains of poverty by helping our fellow creations.

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

Please Help Our Desperate Americans: 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, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Rhoades Foundation, Michael & Sue Borden, Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, Geneva Ridge Joint Venture, Delavan Lioness Club, Plymouth Tube Company, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Martin O'Brien, Gerald & Marilyn Wilkin, Jack & Mary Lou Mc Kinney, Sylvester & Virginina Seick, Albert & Ellen Burnell, Michael Nyrkkanen, James & Marilyn Dyer, Donald & Anne Ogne, William & Jean Isaacson, Hedwig Spaight, Diane & Roland Schroeder, Debra Guzman, 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 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.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org