

Dear W.C.,

I am writing to ask for help for my family. My husband, two daughters, and I are having a real hard time. I had to give up my job after I became disabled due to a terrible car accident two years ago. I was hit by an uninsured drunk driver. I have had surgery twice already and still am unable to move without great pain. My husband lost his job when the company he worked for closed due to the recession. He has been looking for a new job, but employment is hard to find. I know we were wrong when we spent all we had on my medical bills, but the collection agency kept threatening me. Now we have fallen behind in our rent and need help with food.

Struggling Family

Dear Readers,

I made a spontaneous visit to the address on this letter. Sometimes people over-exaggerate their situation thinking we will assist them faster or more generously. This time the letter writer had actually under exaggerated their living conditions. I found this family living in deplorable conditions.

I arrived at the door of an older mobile home. It was long past its useful years. The roof was sagging and siding was falling away from the walls. I knew the inside would probably be worse than the outside. I was soon going to find out I was correct. I knocked on the door and it was answered by a man. After introducing myself he reluctantly invited me inside. It takes a lot to shock me but I have to say I was shocked by the dark, musty interior. I looked for the two children. I saw them shyly watching from the other room. The father called them over and introduced me to his two daughters. They were very interested in the bag of food I had brought along so I asked them if they could carry it to the kitchen for me. They both were very happy to help me with the food. I asked the father if they had eaten and he said they had not. I asked if I could look in their refrigerator and cabinets and he told me to go ahead, but there was nothing to see. I saw a box of cereal and some crackers. In the refrigerator was a pitcher of water and a few condiments.

The mother then came in the room, apologizing for her appearance. She said she did not have the energy to fight the pain enough to worry about her appearance. She said the simplest tasks were painful and draining. She said she did not want to take her medications as they made her drowsy and fuzzy headed. I asked her about her prognosis. She said they had told her the last surgery would correct the problem. It had not alleviated the pain and had left them with huge medical bills that were the final blow to their financial ruin.

I asked if I could see all the rooms. The girls jumped up to show me their room. The mother nodded her head. When I asked them where their beds were they pointed to a very old mattress on the floor in the corner. I was saddened to think these two precious children were sleeping on such a worn mattress. They had a box with their clothes in it. I had to turn my head so they did not see the tears in my eyes. The mother saw me do this and said they had to sell everything to get by. When I asked the girls if they would like new beds of their very own both their faces lit up.

I asked the father about his job loss and his recent job search. He said the factory he had worked at had closed due to the economy. He did not have many job skills or a good education, so finding him a job would not be easy. With the recent poor job market many low paying jobs are now being filled by overqualified, well educated people. After struggling endlessly to find a job in their chosen field, they will take any job in order to just pay the bills. This father was hoping to get a job that paid nearly what he had earned previously as a factory worker, and he could not find anything. He was frustrated and depressed over his inability to provide for his family.

We then went over their budget to see what they could afford in rent. The mobile home was in terrible shape and was uninhabitable. The leaking sagging roof and mold was horrible living conditions for the children to be growing up in. I again worked on our network of landlords and came upon a reasonable rental for this family. I advised them to contact their landlord about the leaking roof and water problems. They said they had contacted him but he always ignored their requests for a repair. I told them to tell him they were moving out due to the poor living conditions and if he had a problem he could call me.

I explained to the parents how all of you make The Time Is Now to Help possible and how with your support our mission to help our fellow creations carries on. The Time Is Now to Help assisted the family in their move to a new rental. We provided the first month's rent and security deposit. We also provided the two daughters with beds and also a new bed for the parents. Their refrigerator and cupboards were filled with food and household necessities. Our networking found a job for the father. This put their budget right on track.

Several weeks later I paid another visit. The father answered the door, stepped outside, and closed the door behind him. He started to cry. When I asked him what was wrong he wrapped his arms around me and proceeded to thank everyone for what we had done for his family. He told me how scared he was before our help, and now how thankful he felt. I comforted him, and told him thank you for letting us help. He pulled himself together before we went inside for a nice visit. We concluded our visit with a prayer together for God's guidance in our lives. God bless all of you for helping our fellow creations.

Please do not forget the August Blessings \$25,000 Matching Grant. Every dollar you donate will be matched by another. Thank you for your caring and sharing for our many fellow American's in desperate need.

Health and Happiness, God Bless Everyone, WC/Sal

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.

Upcoming Event: Tuesday, August 30, there will be a fundraiser for Side by Side at Simple Restaurant, 525 Broad Street, Lake Geneva. Tickets for 5, 6, and 7p.m. seatings are available. \$10 Adult, \$5 Children under 10 years. They may be purchased at Simple or from member churches. As available, tickets may be purchased the night of the event.

A Very Special Thank You: August Blessings Donors, Albert & Geraldine Hinton, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Verlo Mattress Factory, Peterson Drywall, Jung's Trucking, O'Sullivan Law Office, Liam & Raquel Brown, John Zajac, Michol Ann Ford, Gary & Hazel Schopp, Richard & Jean Honeyager, Martin O'Brien, James & Marilynn Dyer, Jody Beer, Lance & Lisa West, Collette Carr, Gerald & Joyce Byers, Jeremy & Amanda Thompson, Frank & Ann Huml, Jr., Brenda Knight, Steve & Lynn Vale, Richard Bonney, Jo Ann Margarella, Jack & Mary Lou McKinney, Marge Mahnke, Velma Toliver, Helen Szigeti, Tony & Brenda Gomes, WD Averitt, Marion Brescher, Joseph Green, Dr. Antoinette Fournier, Jesse & Karen Lawrence, William & Kimberly Basford, Sylvester & Virginia Seick, Bruce McDonald, Francis French, Dale & Gail Folkers, Al & Lucy Gilat, Charles & Lucille Coates, Sharon Conti, Albert & Ellen Burnell, 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.

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