

Dear W.C.,

I am writing to ask for help for my grandma. I went to visit her last week. She has been having some health problems and she complains about the cost of her health care. She did not have hardly any food in her house and she kept the lights and air-conditioning off for the whole visit. She said she could not afford to turn them on. It was very hot outside and much too warm for her in her house. I wish I could help her myself but I am a college student without a job. My mom passed away several years ago from breast cancer so I am the only one left to look after my Grandma. Please help her.

Worried Granddaughter

Dear Readers,

I called the worried granddaughter. She lived several states away from her Grandma in Wisconsin. She was so happy I called to help her Grandma she burst into tears. I asked her a few questions and obtained some more details from her. I assured her I would check on her grandmother immediately.

I arrived at a small home that the granddaughter had given me the address to. I knocked on the back door as she had instructed me. She told me her grandma did not get around well and would not answer the front door. The grandma looked worried when she opened the door. She was not expecting a strange man. The granddaughter had told me her grandmother had her telephone disconnected due to her inability to pay the bill. She had not had time to write a letter to inform her of my upcoming visit.

I came with some information for her to read about *The Time Is Now to Help*, knowing she would not have access to the internet and may not read the newspaper. I told her some things the granddaughter had told me to say that only the two of them shared. After this she seemed convinced that I truly was sent by her granddaughter. The grandmother invited me inside. She apologized for her apprehension. I assured her that I understood and even encouraged her to continue to be careful. The world can be a scary place for a senior citizen living on their own.

I looked around the small house that only had one bedroom, a small kitchen, and living room. The house was very old. I told her how I usually did a little inspection to assess need. She told me to go ahead, she had nothing to hide. I looked in the refrigerator and few cabinets, but did not see much food. The furnishings were well worn but the small house was very clean. I could tell she took some pride in her surroundings and kept things looking nice.

I also noticed she looked tired and had several prescription medications on the counter. She explained she had been having some health problems and that was what put her so far behind in her bills. She looked ashamed as she admitted her electric bill was unpaid. I told her millions of American's are financially struggling while our government debates and argues with one another. She turned to face me again with tears in her eyes. She said, "I am so afraid to spend a penny on anything other than my rent and my medical bills that are not covered by Medicare. I will not use the electricity due to the past unpaid bill. I would rather go hungry than be out in the streets."

After that brief reality of the fear she was living with, she burst into tears. Her legs seemed to give out on her, so I held onto her and eased her into a chair. I consoled the elderly woman, telling her she will never be put out on the streets. I told her what was paid by Medicare was enough payment and even the medical providers would not want her to go hungry. If she did not eat she would only become weaker and sicker.

I get so upset that our fellow American's are living like this, fighting to survive by the tens of millions, all while our federal government finds more ways to fight with one another over spending our tax dollars all over the world, rather than taking care of our beloved country and people.

I asked about her granddaughter, and that is when her whole face lit up. She said she had cared for her daughter when she suffered with her cancer. Her granddaughter had just left for college and they had not wanted to worry her. She had been a good student and they did not want her to feel obligated to stay home and care for her mother. The grandmother cried as she told me how her daughter had fought valiantly to live, but it was just not to be. She recalled when she had to call her granddaughter to come home to say goodbye to her mother. It was the saddest time of her life. Even sadder than when her beloved husband had died. She said at least he had lived long enough to see his daughter and granddaughter grown. She told me how her and her granddaughter had stayed by her side until she had passed.

I explained to her that her granddaughter was worried about her and The Time Is Now to Help was there to help ease her burdens. She was extremely grateful and again ashamed at the same time. I told her to not be ashamed. Unfortunately, this is a common state for our senior citizens to be in right now. If they were lucky enough to save for retirement their savings have dwindled. If they are only surviving on social security it is nearly impossible to get by. This grandmother had long ago spent all her savings helping her daughter get by. She had felt she needed to pay all her daughters medical bills for her and used all her savings. I went over her budget and showed her how she could bet by if she would stop paying the

excess medical bills beyond her Medicare. I reassured her they would not throw her out of her rental.

The Time Is Now to Help brought her utilities up to date. We also paid some into the future, along with a promise from the grandmother that she would use her air-conditioning on the hot days. We provided her with a house full of good food and household necessities I had noticed she was in need of. The grandmother was in disbelief over all we did for her, in our compassion for helping our fellow creations.

When I called the granddaughter to fill her in with what we had done for her grandmother she too broke into tears. She sobbed into the phone as she told me how much she loved her grandmother and how she was all she had left. I told her to call her grandmother and tell her she loved her, as we had also restored her telephone service. This was a big relief for the caring granddaughter. She thanked us over and over for our generosity and caring and sharing we showed for her grandmother. She then hurried off to call her beloved grandmother. God bless this granddaughter for writing to us for help and God bless all of you for making our mission a reality.

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, Illinois Tool Works Foundation, Heinz's Diamond Motors, Martin O'Brien, John & Hae Cha Klug, Charles & Barbara Taylor, Steve & Betty Thornton, Joan Murphy, Peter & Debbi Kroening, Steve & Pat Werner, Kenneth & Nova Kyburz, Wallie Leitzke, Bob & Shirley Cutshall, John Barron, Arlene Torrenga, Victoria Wertz, Michael & Sally Chier, Kathy Brooks Parker, James & Janice Batten, Jonathan Mikrut, John & Bonnie Stollenwerk, Dorothy & Harley Kurtz in honor of their 59th Wedding Anniversary, Mary Whitmore, 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.

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Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org