

Dear W.C.,

My daughter and son-in-law just had a baby. He was born premature and my daughter had several complications. The baby is still in the hospital and will be for the next month. My daughter is on bed rest. My son-in-law has missed many days of work this past month due to his trips back and forth to the hospital and the many emergencies. Now their car's check engine light is on and my son-in-law had a flat tire on the way home from the hospital yesterday. They do not have money to repair the engine and are falling behind in their rent due to the days of missed work. My daughter had planned on returning to her job but ended up having to leave her job in the 7th month of her pregnancy because of her physical complications. She was very sick with preeclampsia and it has taken a lot out of her. They are blessed that both she and the baby survived. Can you please help them during this very trying time? I have helped as much as I can financially as I am living on social security and just make it month to month.

Very Worried Grandmother

Dear Readers,

I called the new grandmother that had written the letter requesting our assistance. She provided me the contact information for her daughter and son-in-law. She thanked us profusely for our attention to this situation.

I called the new mother that was home on bed rest. She was surprised to hear from me as her mother had not shared her request for assistance from The Time Is Now to Help. The new mother said, "My mother has spoken about The Time Is Now to Help many times. She is always pointing out your column in the newspaper. She told me I should write to you but I was too embarrassed to ask for help." I told her, "Well, now that your mother has written on your behalf, you, your husband and I should talk about the problems you are struggling with." The new mother admitted they were in desperate need of help and invited me over to talk.

I arrived at the apartment and the husband greeted me at the door. He invited me in and introduced me to his wife who was resting on the couch. She apologized for not getting up and greeting me but I quickly assured her I was there only to help, not be a guest. The mother and father shared photos of their tiny newborn son, in an incubator with wires and tubes attached, yet glowed while sharing his progress and small improvements. The mother began to cry when sharing how she was not allowed to get up yet to go visit her newborn son. She cried even harder now that she knew her husband would not be able to visit him either since they did not have the funds to repair their car. The mother said, "I feel so helpless and worthless sitting here while my son needs us at the hospital to pray and watch over him. My husband needs to work so we can pay our rent and utilities but I cannot bear to think of our son so tiny and weak feeling unloved by us. We need to be there for him. He needs to feel loved and wanted..." By then she was profusely crying. The husband was trying to be strong

but started to cry as well, saying, “I feel so helpless.” I could feel their pain over their child’s struggle for his life and not being able to be there to comfort and pray.

How could I not have tears in my own eyes when I thought of these new parents unable to even visit their tiny son due to financial restraints? After reviewing their budget I could see how the father and mothers lack of hours during the pregnancy and emergency delivery had affected their budget.

The car breaking down was the final straw in their struggle. I saw they lived very frugally even before this medical emergency. After I reviewed the car, I made arrangements for much needed repairs and new tires. I could see why they had gotten a flat tire and was surprised they had not gotten even more on the many trips to the hospital recently. I told the mother and father, “When you are finally able to bring your new son home I want it to be in a safe reliable car.” This had the mother crying again, saying, “Thank you, thank you.” I told them about all of “You”, who through your support make “Our” help to those in need possible. In a grateful, trembling voice the mother said, “Please tell everyone Thank You.”

“We” together provided two months’ rent and paid their past due utilities. This brought their outstanding debts up to date to provide them a fresh start. The mother and father were speechless. They both just looked at each other and grasped each other’s hands in shock and disbelief. After a few minutes of silence the husband reached over and grasped my hand as well, saying, “Thank you, thank you. I cannot thank all of you enough. You have saved not only our apartment and car, but also I believe you have truly helped our son to get better because now we can focus on him, not our financial problems.”

Wanting to make sure the husbands job was stable, I talked to the husband’s employer. The owner was very understanding of their situation. She told me the husband was a very hard worker and very compassionate over the new baby’s situation. She thanked me for calling her.

Over the next period of time the mother and father made many trips to be with their baby. They felt relieved to be part of God’s healing by being there for their baby and watching over his daily improvements. After my suggestion, the daughter and son-in-law made arrangements for the Grandmother to move in with them. This would help all of them financially and also give the baby a loving Grandmother to help care for him. I am happy to report the baby is now 100% healthy and is living at home with his loving parents and grandmother. All are doing fine, thanks to all of “You” being there to offer a helping hand.

My dear readers and friends, what we do “Together” is so special. Helping our fellow creations, our Caring and Sharing, doing our good works is life changing for those we help. God Bless all of you for making "Our" The Time Is Now to Help so special. Together we will continue to remove the many pains of poverty including: hunger, loneliness, fear and homelessness... Together we provide hope, compassion, care, shelter, food, ...all the necessities of daily life, through our Caring and Sharing. God Bless all of "You" for helping.

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

Please Help: There are many coming to us in desperation. Our good fellow creations need our compassion. Together we make a big difference. Make checks payable to: The Time Is Now to Help, P.O. Box 1, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. 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 how your donation provided assistance for the poverty stricken.

A Very Special Thank You: Paul Ziegler, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Fox Charities, Dick & Jean Honeyager, The Petco Foundation, Lake Geneva Petco, The Rhoades Foundation, Lake Geneva Lioness Club, GFWC- Womens Club of East Troy, ITW Foundation, Martin Business, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schuberth, Barbara Spiegelhoff, Harry & Patricia Buchert, Jr. , George & Lauretta Clettenberg, Joel & Annette Hovestol, Michael Glass, Sid & Patty Johnson, William & Dorothy Tookey, Milton & Carol Ann Ancevic, Nancy Yaeger, Ellen Flanagan, Dennis & Jeanne Ludwig, Rosemarie Reiherzer, Margarie Egger, John Poiron, W.C. Family Resource Center/Food Pantry volunteers, and all the God loving volunteers of all our caring 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: Gloria Schmid in memory of Lucille Shoppe. Pat & Annaleisa Prohuska and Michael & Gay Stran in memory of Harry Bublitz. Al & Geri Hinton in memory of Jean Gallagher.

Furniture Donations: Please contact Love, Inc. for all your furniture, clothing and household item donations. Call 262-763-2743 or 262-763-6226 to schedule pick-up. We are no longer affiliated with Chris Ann's Resale Shop.

W.C. Food Pantry Needs Help: The W.C. Food Pantry is desperately in need of 1,000 sq. ft. + donated storage space in Lake Geneva, Elkhorn or Delavan. An overhead door is necessary. It can be heated or unheated. A loading dock would be a huge plus. The W.C. Food Pantry is working hard to provide good food along with other items such as pet food, toiletries and other desperately needed daily necessities. All this requires the space to store these items when donated in large quantities. Please contact Jim Drescher at (262) 745-6018 if you can help the food pantry.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org