

A mother's tears create a legacy of help for thousands. The Time Is Now to Help was founded on a promise made by me, Sal Dimiceli, Sr. when I was still a boy. I made a promise to God to share his blessings with those that are less fortunate and it has been the cornerstone of my life's work. My personal experience of poverty first hand as I watched my own hard working mother struggle through eviction, utility disconnection and to feed her children inspired me to found this mission of poverty relief. Now, all these years later, I continue to help mothers and children throughout our communities. Much to my discomfiture The Time Is Now to Help has been hailed and chronicled by media and even celebrities. I do not feel what I am doing should be considered special. In fact I think we should all be able to reach out a helping hand to those in need, even if it is as simple as holding a door or visiting a senior citizen. I would like to think there are many more helped by our example as well as the hands on assistance we provide. The motivation to care and share is evident in our schools and churches. Just this past week I attended two fundraising events, the Creek Road Community Church Ladies Guild for Christian Service Salad Supper and Lake Geneva Middle School 8th Grade Omega House. Unfortunately I could not attend an FFA meeting at Badger High School that was scheduled for the same evening. I felt so inspired by the energy and love from all three of these groups. Tonight I will be attending an event where The Time Is Now to Help will receive the proceeds from the Night of Love benefit dinner. There are many more groups, businesses, organizations and individuals that support our mission. I am honored by all these groups working so hard to bring poverty relief to the many senior citizens, single mothers and children, the disabled and working poor families turning to us for help. We could not do this alone. "You" make sure we do not have to. Together and only together, "We" achieve so much, relieving the pains of poverty. Thank you for your support!

Dear W.C.,

I am a mother of two adult children and one grandchild. My adult son lives out of state and is struggling to support his own family. I care for my adult daughter that suffers from mental illness. She has the mental capacity of a ten year old child. She was lured into a sexual relationship and ultimately became pregnant. I was unaware this was going on until too late. The father of my grandchild never stepped forward to care for either of them and disappeared when I got the law involved. He has not been found. My daughter had no clue of how to care for a baby so now I take care of both of them. We were surviving on her assistance and I work part-time, putting the baby in day care when I am not there to supervise. We have always gotten by, even on our below poverty level income. Two months ago I fell and broke my ankle. It has been a long, slow, painful recovery. I have been unable to work and ultimately lost my job. We are now close to eviction and our utilities will be disconnected next week. I am begging for your help right now. I don't know where we would go and how I could even move right now with my daughter that has a melt down over any change in her routine, me struggling to walk again and a toddler. Where would we go? I am so afraid for all of us.

Care Giving Grandmother

Dear Readers,

This past week we celebrated Mother's Day. I wish every day my Mother was still here with me. In her memory I continue to bring assistance to mothers and grandmothers.

I called to schedule a visit with this grandmother, special needs daughter and granddaughter. The grandmother tearfully invited me to come over immediately, so great was their need. I arrived at the apartment and the door was opened by a woman with a crutch and she had a support boot on her foot/ankle. I introduced myself and showed her my identification. She invited me inside.

The grandmother introduced me to her daughter. She was in her late twenties, yet her behavior was very child like. The toddler was shy to see a stranger in her apartment and clung to the grandmother. After a few minutes she seemed to warm up some and was confident enough to play with her few toys on the floor. The grandmother sat in a chair and invited me to do the same. She said she still could not stand for long and took her breaks when she could, pointing to the toddler with a weary smile telling of the physical struggles she was enduring along with the financial.

We spoke about the daughter briefly as she was in our presence and the grandmother did not want to upset her. I saw how the daughter interacted with the toddler like a child sibling, not a mother. The grandmother said the daughter truly did not understand the toddler was hers.

I asked to look around the apartment and saw an almost empty refrigerator and lightly stocked cabinets. The grandmother showed me the disconnection notice from the utility company and late rent notice. Her face showed lines of weariness and stress. I knew we needed to help ease the burden placed on this woman. I remembered the same lines of weariness and stress on my own mothers face when I was a child. I wish someone had been there to offer my mother a helping hand and ease the stress and worry.

The grandmother showed me two sets of x-rays she had copies of. One was her original break showing a clean break. The second was from ten days prior showing how the bone was healing. The doctor told her she could be back at work in about three weeks.

After going over her budget we set up a plan that would work until she could again work part-time. I had a volunteer drop off some much needed food. The volunteer offered to shop for her weekly until she was back on her feet again since she knew taking a toddler grocery shopping while on crutches was not going to be something easy for her to accomplish. We paid the overdue rent and paid two months into the future to prevent their eviction. We also paid the overdue utility bill and paid some extra to help with the upcoming utility charges for the next month.

The grandmother was crying as we went over each bill that would be paid. The toddler and daughter noticed her tears and both came over to hug her. I could see they both loved her very much. The daughter in her child like way asked, "Mama why are you crying? Are you okay? Do you have a boo boo?" The grandmother hugged both her daughter and granddaughter in a tight hug and reassured them she was fine. The grandmother then said, "I

am crying because this good man and his many friends are here to make sure we do not have any boo boos.”

Several weeks later the grandmother was able to return to her previous job. Her employer had graciously taken her back, gave her a raise and even gave additional hours. The employer had said they tried to replace her but were unable to find someone that was as dedicated of an employee as she was. I knew the grandmother was dedicated by the hard work and service she gave to her own family with special needs. Now she is able to once again care for them and provide necessary food, shelter and utilities. Together we provided the bridge in life needed to rise above extreme pains of poverty.

My dear friends, poverty is causing great pain among our fellow creations. Please help. If you give now your donation will be matched by the Fox Charities Spring \$10,000 Matching Grant, doubling your donation. Let us stand together and continue our good works of removing the pains of poverty. Together we will remove the many pains of poverty. 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: Fox Charities, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Paul Ziegler, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Clarence W. & Marilyn G. Schawk Family Foundation, The Petco Foundation, The Rhoades Foundation, Creek Road Community Church, Ladies of the Guild for Christian Service, Lake Geneva Middle School & 8th Grade Omega House, Daryl & Geri Braun, Alan Cornue, Dr. Mark & Cynthia Brower, Fairfield Grange No. 679, Beth & Jody Rendall, Michael & Kathe Beach, William & Jean Isaacson, James & Betty Kroupa, Milton & Carol Ann Ancevic, Dennis & Kathleen Wilson, William Davit, Walter & Florence Strumpf, Michael Burke, Patricia Jankowski, Ronald & Carolyn Bloch, Nancy Bluemel, Gregory Swanson, 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: Marvin & Audrey Hersko in memory of Don Wunderlin and Barbara Hersko.

Carla Matz in memory of Harry Bublitz.

Al & Geri Hinton in memory of John O. Krucek.

Muriel Lake in loving memory of dear friends Jan & Leroy Johnson.

The following donations were given in memory of Lucille Shoppe: James & Eileen Dempsey, Bob & Carol Pederson, Kenneth & Sharann Schoppe, Mary M. Dalee, E. Blenkle, Melvin & Mary Ellen Welch and Wippich.

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.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org