

Dear W.C.,

I gave birth to my second child four weeks ago. He was born premature with complications. I had a difficult pregnancy and had to remain on bed rest for the six weeks prior to his birth. That was extremely difficult as I am also the mother of a six year old boy. I had to give up my job three months ago when I began to have medical problems. I am still trying to regain my health but have some lingering medical issues for both myself and my newborn son remains in the hospital. This has kept me from being able to work. My husband is working but missed a lot of days due to all the trips to the hospital and health scares. We find ourselves behind on our rent. Our car is also in need of some repairs to make it safe enough to carry us to the hospital and to eventually bring our tiny son home. Can you please help us?

Dear Readers,

I found this family living very mentally distraught over their months of health issues, the possibility of losing the baby and finally being left in financial disaster. The unexpected health complications, job loss for the mother and missed days of work for the father took a toll on this family's well-being. They were so relieved when "We" together were there to ease their burdens.

I met up with the mother and six year old child in the parking lot of the apartment complex. They had just returned home from their daily trip to the hospital. The father was due home soon from work. After I introduced myself, and showed my identification, the mother showed me her car. I looked over the rundown car and made note of necessary repairs I could see right away. I made arrangements for the car to get in for a much needed safety evaluation the following day.

Just as we finished going over the mother's car, the father arrived home and we went over his vehicle as well. Both cars were in very poor condition. I was saddened to think these were their only means of transportation that was the lifeline to their hospitalized baby and the father's job. The father looked at the car and said, "If this car quits on me I will lose my job. My boss has been real understanding so far but not showing up for work because my car broke down would be the last straw." Knowing the importance of this man's job to his family I made arrangements for his car to have a safety check as well.

They invited me into their apartment. It was a small two bedroom apartment but the mother commented as I looked around, "It is small, but it is all we need." The second bedroom had a child's bed and a crib for when the new baby finally came home. The mother had tears in her eyes as she showed me all the babies supplies they had been able to collect used from garage sales and friends. I made a note for a supply of diapers to be dropped off along with any other assistance I saw was necessary.

In my walk around the kitchen I noticed not much food in the cabinets. I asked if they had been to the food pantry but they said they had not been able to go due to the many trips to the

hospital and work schedule. The mother also shared she still had not recovered from the child birth, her surgery and some other medical complications from the birth. She was still supposed to be resting and not lifting anything. She was not supposed to be driving long distances, yet she said she felt she had to be there for her baby daily. I understood her need to be there to bond with and love her baby.

We sat to go over their budget. I could see the fatigue and frailty on the mothers face. She had a lot to worry about besides just their financial problems. When you do not have your health it makes poverty even more difficult. I knew “We” had to step in and lighten the load this family was carrying.

We went over a very thorough budget. I could see they were trying to play catch up with the overdue bills from the previous few months. I knew they would have rough months ahead of them yet with all the medical expenses. The mother planned on getting a job in several months, once both she and her baby were completely healthy. I asked if they had any help and the mother said her Aunt came over several days a week and picked up the six year old child from school so he did not have to go to the hospital daily. The Aunt also helped with the laundry and occasionally brought over hot food for the family. The mother shared her gratitude for her Aunt and said she made all the difference in the world. The Aunt was not able to help financially as she was living on Social Security.

After our complete review “We” brought their rent and utilities up to date. We also paid a month ahead to allow them time to get back on their feet. Volunteers delivered some groceries, diapers and toiletries. They also included some small toys for the six year old to enjoy. Both of their cars were given safety checks and necessary repairs were completed. The mother’s car had new tires also put on to provide a safe vehicle for the children and parents to ride in. All this assistance was only possible thanks to all of “You” and your gracious support.

During all this they still needed some additional income to stay ahead. One of our gracious volunteers told me about the piece work job she does from home. The volunteer’s neighbor is a supervisor at a factory. After more details I asked if I could talk to her neighbor about this work from home opportunity. After I explained the situation the supervisor told me he would call the owner, who he said was a wonderful person. I received a call back telling me the owner was happy to provide a work from home opportunity for this mother as she recuperated and cared for her children.

The mother and father were both overjoyed to have their financial burden lifted. They both were in shock as they fought back tears. Then the mother burst into tears and cried as she was so overwhelmed by all our care and compassion, helping to put their lives back together. God Bless all of “You” for making our work possible.

My dear friends, poverty is causing great pain among our fellow creations. Let us stand together and continue our good works of removing the 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, Martin Group, John Stensland & Family, American Culinary Federation-Geneva Lake Chapter, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Paul Ziegler, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Clarence W. & Marilyn G. Schawk Family Foundation, The Petco Foundation, Bill & Helen Johnson, Badger High School FFA, Mr. & Mrs. Robert W Schubert, Claws Restaurant, Piggly Wiggly, Peoples Bank, Alliant Energy Foundation, Excel Family Chiropractic & Wellness, Natalie Bauman, Arnold & Janet Oswald, Dale & Virginia Reed, E. & Barbara Andres, Monroe & Birdeen Putnam, Gerald & Joyce Byers, Lauren Grady, Sid & Patty Johnson, Barbara Kufalk, George & Laretta Clettenberg, Dorothy Sullivan, Charles & Penny Gruetzmacher, Jeff Martin, Barbara Spiegelhoff, Gerald & Marilyn Wilkin, William & Dorothy Tookey, Francis & D.W. Corboy, 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: Kathryn Roen in memory of her Mom Darlene Roen-Parks. Michael & Karen Hohman in memory of Darlene Roen-Parks.

The following donations were given in memory of Lucille Schoppe: Grant & Jeanette Cummings, Merlyn & Virginia Dahl & Family, Ronald & Sandra Bosi.

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