

From Homeless to Safe Shelter

Dear W.C.,

We have recently suffered the loss of all our belongings due to a fire in our mobile home. Thank God my children and I escaped unharmed thanks to my dog waking us during the night. He kept barking and woke all of us so we were able to get out of the fire before it was too late. We did not even have time to grab our shoes as the smoke was so thick. We have nowhere to go for shelter. I do not have any family in the area. My husband passed away three years ago but I stayed in the area due to my job and owning the trailer. I did not have insurance so there is no way I will be able to replace all we lost. Right now we do not even have toothbrushes or fresh clothing. We are living in my car as I wait for my next paycheck to pay for a motel room, clothing and toiletries.

Dear Readers,

I received several messages from caring people concerned for this mother and children's welfare. The family was indeed living in their car with no belongings while the mother did all she could to obtain food, clothing and shoes for her family. Several organizations had already given her used clothing and promised some furniture when she found a place to stay. That is where The Time Is Now to Help stepped in to help.

The mother, two children and hero dog all were living in the driveway in their minivan. I met the family and handed the mother a bag filled with what I knew would be immediate needs, bottled water, toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, shampoo, food and clothing gift cards. I told them there was a room waiting for them with a full kitchen in a motel. She looked away, and started to cry uncontrollably. I and her bewildered children consoled her. She apologized to her children. She knew she had to be strong, but all the stress from the fire and losing nearly everything, she could not hold in her tears any longer.

The mother told me she had tried to secure shelter at several motels but she did not have a credit card. Her bank account did not have enough money to pay for a room as she just made ends meet each week. She also was told her dog would not be allowed to stay at these motels. The mother said, "He just saved our lives. Am I supposed to bring him to a shelter now? I can't do that. He showed up on our doorstep a year ago all skin and bones. I can't turn my back on him now."

I previously made arrangements with a motel that would allow her to keep her well mannered dog with her. I called and made arrangements to have them moved in immediately. We provided the mother with gift cards for gas, food, toiletries, clothing and shoes. The children were so excited when the mother told them they would sleep in a real bed that night, take showers and they would be going shopping for shoes and clothes. It was the first time I saw them smile since my arrival.

I asked some questions about the mother's job status. She is one of our many hardworking families that just make ends meet. She worked for the same employer for five years before her husband passed away. The mother tearfully shared with me the details of her husband's death on a motorcycle when he had been hit by an inattentive driver. He had spent several days in the ICU. The mother said she had been making payments on medical bills every month for the last three years but did not know how she could do that now that they had lost everything. I could see she was trying so hard not to cry again in front of the children, as she swiped her eyes and choked back a sob. She then said, "We are all being strong for Daddy in heaven. Right kids?" They nodded their heads but I could see the fear and uncertainty in their eyes.

I told her to get settled in the motel and call me after so we can do a budget. A few days later we met. After reviewing the budget I had a better idea of what they could afford to rent. The mother pulled out an organized list of places to rent. There were only two that would allow her pet with a referral and deposit. Having met the friendly dog I offered to make a call to the landlord on her behalf. The landlord was happy to accommodate the family and once I told him their story he offered to lower the rent to help the mother and children. The landlord said the apartment would be ready to move in by the end of the week.

I offered to call the medical bill collectors with the mother. She looked puzzled as she asked, "You are willing to do that?" I explained, "We do not want to just get you into a place and leave you there to financially struggle. We want you and your children to be financially able to take care of yourselves." She asked about The Time Is Now to Help and who is "We". I told her about all of you, a group of good people who make our good works possible, helping one another, Caring and Sharing for our fellow creations.

She looked at me crying and said, "Thank God you good people exist. I was devastated on what to do for my poor children." After she stopped crying tears of relief we called the medical bill collectors. At the conclusion of telling them the widowed mother needs to feed and shelter her children and then, and only then, she can send something in monthly. The collectors agreed to reduce her monthly payment by 75%. When we finished the call the mother began to cry again. I told her, "These better be happy tears because now your budget is set to meet your family's needs." Her answer was, "Yes, Yes, Thank you, Thank everyone for all The Time Is Now to Help has done!"

Together "We" assisted this mother and children with first month's rent and security deposit. We also helped to pay her past utility bill to allow her to have utilities set up at her new rental. Some much needed repairs were completed on her minivan. Once the family moved in donated furniture was provided. We purchased new beds for the mother and children. A volunteer even donated a new bed and bowls for the family dog. They were so grateful for all the assistance provided thanks to "Your Caring and Sharing Hearts."

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 those in desperate need.

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: Clarence & Marilyn Schawk, Fox Charities, Martin Group, John Stensland & Family, American Culinary Federation-Geneva Lake Chapter, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Paul Ziegler, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Bill & Helen Johnson, The Harold & Bernice DeWeerd Family Foundation, Kathleen & Brian Hurdis Charitable Fund, Badger High School FFA, Big Foot Country Club Lady Golfers, Carol Hanke, Michael Glass, Dorothy Butek, Lowell & Mary Ellen Sweet, Louise & Clifford Morris, John & Jean Stephan, Gerald & Joyce Byers, Michael & Sally Anne Chier, Melvin H. Macoskie, John Poiron, Ron & Karen Teliszcak, Sid & Patty Johnson, William & Dorothy Tookey, 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.

Honoraries: Douglas & Janet Muzatko in honor of their 30th wedding anniversary.

Memorials: Kathryn Roen in memory of her mother Darlene Roen Parks. Michael & Karen Hohman in memory of Darlene Roen Parks.

Carla Matz in memory of Harry Bublitz & Heidi Danner.

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