

Dear W.C.,

Could you please help our family? My husband has been off work due to illness and we have three children. I was working two part-time jobs but had to quit one of them to care for my sick husband. Things are real hard for us right now. Our gas has been shut off for two weeks. Now they are threatening to disconnect our electric and water. If this happens we will be evicted. We have been using my husband's disability to pay our rent and my small check to try and buy food, gas and utilities. My husband hopes to return to work in a few weeks when the doctor gives him a release. I am worried we will not be able to even make it these next few weeks if we lose our electric and water. If you could help us to get our utilities paid we would be able to keep from being evicted and I would be so grateful to have hot water again for bathing our children and dishes. I went to the food pantry several weeks ago but we still are short food this month. It helped but just not enough with five mouths to feed.

Dear Readers,

I went to the address the mother had shared in her letter. I arrived at a house that had a car and several kids' bicycles in the driveway. I went to the door and knocked. A minute later the door was answered by a boy that looked to be about ten years old. He politely asked who I was and called for his mother. A second later a woman was behind the boy telling him, "Oh, that's W.C. Come in, come in." I showed her the identification I had ready in my hand and she glanced at it saying, "I know who you are."

The mother said they were just sitting down to eat dinner and asked if I would like to join them. I looked at the table with one small bowl of milk spaghetti and a pan of canned peas. I knew there was hardly enough to go around so I said, "No thank you. I just ate. You go ahead and we can talk while you eat." I offered the food I had brought along, two hot rotisserie chickens, salads, a carton of milk, eggs, bread, bananas and some cookies for the children. The family looked at the food like it was a gift from heaven. The youngest child asked, "Are those cookies for us?" When I told the young girl the cookies were just for them, I saw all three children's faces light up with a smile. The mother said, "Only if you eat your vegetables." I watched the family eat quickly and finish all they had. They ate with a desperation that only people living on the edge of food insecurity do.

After the children finished their food, ate the cookies with relish (thanking me profusely for the treat) and cleared their plates the mother and father dismissed them from the table to play in the yard. The mother, father and I remained at the table to talk about their financial situation.

The father was thin and pale. He told me about the illness he had spent over five weeks in the hospital with. He had a small cut in his leg that had become infected with a flesh eating bacteria. It had quickly spread through his system and he said he was lucky he had survived. The father showed me the large area that had to be removed from his leg to control the spread of the bacteria. The mother shared how he had gotten ill so fast that they did not realize it was life threatening until they rushed him to the emergency room. The father had

tried to go to work, knowing how important his job was to his family's well-being, not realizing he could have died from the effort. The mother had instead insisted he go to the emergency room, saving his life by doing so. The mother began to cry, reliving that horrible time of uncertainty and possible loss of her husband. The husband reached over and took her hand, saying, "Don't cry. I'm okay now thanks to you."

We discussed the time he had taken off work and the delay in his disability compensation. The mother had tried to continue working her two part-time jobs but it had become too much with three children and her husband needing constant care. She managed to work one part-time job for fifteen hours a week while her mother stayed with her husband and children. The mother said this was not ideal as her own mother worked full-time and needed to care for her father as well. I could see everyone was stretched. The father said, "I feel so helpless and like less than a man because I cannot get back to work and support my family. The doctor keeps telling me it is too soon and I need to regain my strength. It is so frustrating watching my family suffer." I told him he needed to rest and "We" together would make sure his family suffered no longer.

I went over their budget and saw they were making ends meet before this medical emergency. They did not live extravagantly but their bills had been paid and food was on the table. The gas had been disconnected for two weeks. They were lucky they had an electric stove and it was summer so no need for heat. The lack of hot water was troubling as I remember having to take cold baths when I was a child when our utilities were disconnected. It was not a pleasant memory. The mother showed me the disconnection notices for their water and electric utilities. I promised "We" would prevent this from happening. I also told them we would get their gas utility connected once more so they could again have hot water for bathing, laundry and dishes. The mother and father looked at each other and I could see tears in both their eyes. The father said, "When my wife told me about The Time Is Now to Help I did not believe there was such an organization. I told her you would never come but she always believed you would. And here you are helping us. I am so sorry I did not believe there are good people in the world that do care about my family and all people suffering like us." I told them both about how all of "Us" come together to help people suffering in poverty in our communities. I shared with them some stories of other assistance "We" have given and how those people's lives turned around for the better after "Our" life changing help was given. They both were reassured by these stories that they could change their life for the better as well.

Due to the lateness of the day at this point, we had to wait until the following day to work on getting their utilities restored. The next morning the mother was getting the utilities restored and paid to prevent disconnection. She then was so happy to take the children grocery shopping with the gift cards we had supplied. When I called the mother later in the day she shared all the happy events of the day. The mother held up the phone and I heard the whole family shout, "Thank You!" We all shared a much needed laugh over this.

The next week I stopped by to check on their progress. The father had one more week until he could return to work, but he looked much improved over the last time I had visited. The

father said, "All that good food is putting a little meat on my bones. Thanks to all the good people in your organization helping my family and removing the stress that was complicating my healing." The man held his hand over his face while he cried tears of relief. The children gathered around their father, the mother joined in, all hugging him. The mother reassured him saying, "You will be 100%. We are almost through this." The mother turned to me saying, "God Bless all the good people for coming to our rescue. Thank you."

God Bless all of "You" for being there with your support to make our good deeds a reality for helping our fellow creations. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Please consider a donation at this time, knowing every dollar you donate will not only be used 100% to help the poverty stricken, but will also be matched by the Fox Charities Summer 2014 \$25,000 Matching Grant.

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, Clarence & Marilyn Schawk, James & Lynne Newman, Geneva Wells Motel, Martin Group, John Stensland & Family, Carolyn J. Gable Expect A Miracle Foundation, White River Cycle Club, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Lake Geneva Area Realty, AbbVie Foundation Employee Engagement Fund, La Grange United Methodist Church, Therese Kuban, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schuberth, Susan Leonard, DC Mitigation, Louise & Clifford Morris, Phyllis Kutz, Dolores Rich, Nancy Yaeger, Herman & Elizabeth Gudeman, Michael Burke, Michael Glass, Marvin Hersko & Audrey Wunderlin-Hersko, Judith Caputo, Donald Lightfield, Gerald & Marilyn Wilkin, Lauren Grady, Mary Fitzgerald, George & Laretta Clettenberg, Bruce & Loretta Adsit, Barbara Kufalk, Alexandria Dahlstrom, Karin Collamore, Margaret Guidarelli, Robin Bender, Gale Baccetti, Thomas Arnold, 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: Jennifer & Thomas Leedle in memory of Clifford "Kip" Snudden. Carla Matz in memory of Harry Bublitz and Heidi Danner. Jim & Donna Finlayson and Tom & Jeanette Sadler in memory of Maureen Shaughnessy.

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