

Dear W.C.,

I am writing to see if you can help a client I am working with. I am a social worker in Walworth County. I recently did a home check on a grandmother that has custody of her two grandchildren. She had an accident last summer that resulted in several surgeries and a long rehabilitation. She is unable to work due to the injury and has applied for disability. She has fallen behind in her rent and utilities while waiting for a response to her application. I know they are struggling to get by. Could you help prevent this grandmother and grandchildren from becoming homeless while they wait for assistance?

Caring Case Worker

Dear Readers,

I called and spoke with the social worker that wrote the letter of request. She shared with me what information the grandmother had allowed to be shared, name, address and phone number. After hearing some more information from the social worker about their situation I promised her I would pay a visit.

The grandmother had been renting a three bedroom home for the past five years. I arrived at the home and knocked on the door. It was answered by a teenage boy I assumed was one of the grandchildren. When I introduced myself and showed some identification the young man called into the house, "Grandma, the man from The Time Is Now to Help is here to see you." I heard a voice call out, "Well don't just let the man freeze outside, invite him in." The young man smiled and said, "That would be Grandma and you better come inside."

The grandson led me into a small living room. I walked in to see who I assumed was the grandmother struggling to get out of a chair. The grandson and I both rushed over and told her not to get up as I saw how much of a struggle it was for her. The grandmother looked relieved and settled back down in the chair. She shook my hand and said to me, "I don't know what our social worker told you about our situation. Last summer I fell down the stairs in our basement and broke my leg. I have had three surgeries and they still can't get it to heal right. I just got over an infection that took a month of antibiotics to get rid of. I was supposed to go back to work months ago but I am still unable to work." The grandmother began to cry when sharing the details of this life changing accident with me.

I let her finish telling me all they were struggling with as it seemed to just pour out of her. She looked drained after speaking for almost fifteen minutes. The grandmother looked at me and said, "Wow, does everyone talk to you like that? I just feel so relieved having told you all this. I don't even know you and yet I knew I could talk to you like an old friend." I reached for her hand and told her, "I have been told that I am easy to talk to." We both laughed at this.

The grandmother had shared with me the details of her custody of the grandchildren. The grandson was fourteen and the granddaughter was sixteen. She had raised both children from

the time they were infants due to the children's parents both being drug addicts and subsequently incarcerated. She received some assistance for the children and that was what they had been using to eat and buy necessities. Their rent was two months overdue and their utilities as well. They were living on the verge of eviction and utility disconnection. The stress of their dilemma weighed heavily on the grandmother and grandchildren. They were waiting on her disability to be approved and then they could get by. Until then they would need all of "Us" together to help them not become another homeless statistic in our communities.

The grandmother proudly shared with me her grandchildren's academic success and service projects. The grandchildren had not seen nor heard from their parents in years. The grandmother was glad she did not have to worry about their negative influence on the grandchildren. The grandchildren were happy, loved and well guided by the grandmother. It was clear to me that this family needed to remain where they were living as the home was one level with no stairs for the grandmother to negotiate, the landlord was compassionate and the rent was reasonable enough to manage once the disability was approved. I looked over the grandmother's bills and expenses. I did not notice anything unusual or extravagant. The granddaughter worked part-time at a restaurant. She used the money from her job to pay for gas for their one car to get to school, work and take her grandmother to her doctor and therapy appointments.

The grandmother said she needed to get up and stretch her leg. She called to her grandson and he came running in to help her up. I offered to help but the young man said, "No, no. I want to help my grandma. She has done so much for my sister and me." The grandmother asked me to follow her to the kitchen. I walked behind her as she shuffled slowly with a cane. I could see she was nowhere near ready to go back to work. When I asked about the prognosis for her leg the grandmother said, "All they can do for me now is wait to see if it heals after this past infection. I will be going back to physical therapy again next week." When we got into the kitchen I asked if I could take a look around. The grandmother told me to go ahead. Other than some of the grandmothers prescriptions on the counter there was little in the way of food in the cabinets and refrigerator. The grandmother said they had made a small payment to the utility company to keep the utilities on. This had prevented them from purchasing much food in the past week. I called a volunteer immediately to go shopping for food and fill their cabinets and refrigerator.

After visiting for over an hour with this grandmother and grandson I said my goodbyes with a promise to return later that day with some of the much needed assistance. My return visit later in the day, along with a volunteer visit with food, brought more tears of poverty relief. When I departed this time it was with a hug. The grandmother said to me, "You really do feel like an old friend. Thank all of you and God Bless you for your help."

At my last visit a month later I was happy to find the door answered by the grandmother, no longer in need of a cane. She greeted me with a hug and said, "Please come in out of the cold." She proudly showed me her renewed walking skills. I was finally able to meet the granddaughter. She was very gracious and thankful for all of our assistance. She gave me a

hug of gratitude as she said, "Thank you for lifting the financial burden off my Grandma's shoulders. I really think it was keeping her from finally healing. She means the world to me and it is so good to see her smiling again." I told the granddaughter how all of "You" made this assistance possible. She said, "My grandma told me about all the wonderful people that make up The Time Is Now to Help. It is my goal to go to college and become a social worker. Someday I hope to run an organization just like yours." We spoke a few minutes about our charity and all the help we provide to those in need in our communities. The granddaughter said, "You don't have to tell me how your organization changes lives. I have seen and felt that here in our own house. I can't wait to share that feeling with others some day." I thank all of "You" again for sharing this feeling of lifting burdens, providing hope and compassion. It is all possible because of "You".

We promise to continue our good works, our mission of caring and sharing, removing the pains of poverty for as many as donations allow in our communities. Thank you and God Bless you.

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

**Badger High School Fashion Show:** The Badger High School Fashion Class is presenting a Tres Chic Fashion Show on Friday, November 21, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the Badger High School Recital Hall. All proceeds from this event will benefit The Time Is Now to Help. \$5 Adults, \$2 Students with ID, Children under 12 free. Thank you to the following businesses that are sponsoring the show: Bloomingbyrds, Clear Water Outdoor, Creative X-Pressions Salon and Spa, E Street Denim-Lake Geneva, Fleming's Ltd., Geneva Java, Ginger Snap Imagery, Jasmine Salon & Spa, Jones New York Factory Store, L'Bri, Lola's, Mia Faccia Salon and Day Spa, Maurice's, PFI Fashions Inc., Rue21 lake geneva, Strawberry Fields, Straight to Curley, Target and The Bootery. We appreciate your contributions to make this fashion show a success!! And special thanks to the Badger High School Fashion Class!

**Upcoming Event:** Lake Geneva Country Meats will be hosting a Holiday Wine Tasting on Saturday, November 22, 2014 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. LGCM will be donating \$7.50 from each ticket sold to The Time is Now to Help. There will be 50 fine wines from around the world and light food to sample. Please join us for what is sure to be a great evening. Please visit [www.lakegenevacountrymeats.com](http://www.lakegenevacountrymeats.com) for more information and to purchase tickets. While you are at their website be sure to vote in their Pardon the Turkey Support a Local Charity event. We would love your vote!!

**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 Family Foundation, Martin Group, John Stensland & Family, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Petco Foundation, Lake Geneva Petco, Terry Dignan, Saints Simeon & Anna Anglican Church, Rita's Wells Street Salon, Bradley Solheim, Raymond & Pamela Ring, Amazon Smile Foundation, Alliant Energy Foundation, Arlene Torrenga, Clifford & Louise Morris, Thomas Morrissy, Russo Drywall, Sylvester & Virginina Seick, Al & Geri Hinton, Janice Stubbs, James & Marilynn Dyer, Leland & Linda Swenson, Barbara Spiegelhoff, Michael & Sally Anne Chier, Frank & Ann Huml, Ernest & Dorothy Winters, Dr. Judith & Wayne Rolfs, Rose Mohr, Michael & Kathe Beach, Nancy Yaeger, Carl & Estrid Sanders, Patricia Weber, Hurvey & June Haskins, Jr., 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:** Arlene & Kerry Clausen and Frank & Mary Gauger in honor of Ken & Marie Koenen's 50th Wedding Anniversary. Liz Boss in honor of her sister Kris Andersen's Birthday. Kristine Andersen in honor of her sister Liz Boss' Birthday.

**Memorials:** Sal & Corinne Dimiceli, Sr. in memory of Clarence Schawk. Carla Matz in memory of Harry Bublitz and Heidi Danner. James & Carolyn Miles in memory of Kristy (Fud) Sather.

**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](http://www.timeisnowtohelp.org)