

Do you ever take a moment to count your blessings? Every day I encounter people that are enduring hardship. Most people we know will never have to face the challenges I see our fellow creations bear. As you gather with your family and friends this Thanksgiving please take time out to reflect on the blessings in your own life. Here are a few of the blessings I will be counting this Thanksgiving.

Health: These past weeks were filled with visits and assistance given to many of our fellow Americans struggling due to disability or illness. Car accidents, falls, surgeries, infections, birth defects, cancer, immune disorders...at times the list seems endless. I have seen the affects of these health problems on many. What can make these feel even worse? Not being able to pay for your rent, food, utilities, and daily necessities while you are struggling with your health. 100% of “Your” donations are being used to remove the stress and pains of poverty. Those pains of poverty are made worse while undergoing an illness or disability. “You” have removed these pains for several of our fellow creations this week.

A handicap accessible van was repaired and provided snow tires. A senior couple was living without heat due to a broken furnace. This furnace was repaired and the seniors are warm thanks to “You”. A visually disabled woman was provided with much needed household repairs. I will count health as one of my many blessings this week.

Shelter: There is nothing that can prepare you for the sight of a family living in a minivan or car, belongings piled where ever they will fit. Bags of personal items and clothing stuffed on the floor and the look in the eyes of the children, as they feel the fear of the unknown. Or the stress of a family living in a motel. While they are at least not living in a car, they are struggling to have some sense of security and privacy. Most of these families eat their meals at fast food restaurants if they are lucky enough to have the cash for at least that meal. If you do not have a refrigerator or microwave that is your only option for preparing a meal. Many of these people have jobs but are unable to save the needed security deposit due to the high costs of living in a motel.

This past week we prevented homelessness for a single mother that is also a veteran. We paid her overdue rent to prevent eviction. She had to choose between car repairs and her rent. If her car was not repaired, she could not get to work. If she missed work she would lose her job. It is situations like these that cause homelessness all the time. We are so very blessed to have safe shelter.

Family: While many of us complain about our families and have petty arguments with family members at the holiday table, there are many that have no one to spend the holiday with. Not only do they not have a family to spend the holidays with, they do not have a family member that checks on them, helps them when needed, or cares for them when they are ill. Every day of their life they are alone. There are so many poverty stricken seniors I check on that have no one. They are so grateful to have a volunteer check on them, just to have a few minutes of conversation with some one that cares.

Those of us that are blessed to have family should take a moment to let them know we love them and care about them. When your family is sitting around the Thanksgiving table look at each one of them and imagine life without them. That is the reality for many we have helped. I will be counting my family as one of my many blessings.

Food: This blessing seems so obvious this time of year as some of us look upon a bountiful table laden with turkey and many side dishes, pies and desserts. For many American families, senior citizens, the handicapped and working poor this blessing will be a luxury. Our food pantries and several local groups are working hard to make sure people in our communities will have a Thanksgiving dinner to enjoy. All of “Us” together are making the blessing of food possible for many in our communities every day, all year long. I have walked in to far too many homes to find empty cupboards and refrigerators. I have seen hungry children, parents and grandparents. All ages are affected by hunger in our great country. Thanks to all of “You” this hunger has been eased for thousands of people in our communities. I will be counting food as one of my many blessings.

Even if you are struggling with some kind of hardship in your life I know there are at least a few things you can still count as a blessing. I have seen children cry grateful tears over their own pillow and blanket, I have had people that have been through terrible tragedies tell me they are blessed to be alive. What will you count as your blessing?

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

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, Thomas Morrissy, Bradley Solheim, Raymond & Pamela Ring, Alliant Energy Foundation, Arlene Torrenge, Clifford & Louise Morris, Thomas Morrissy, Janice Stubbs, Albert & Ellen Burnell, Michael Glass, William & Pauline Mangold, David & Jean Eddy, Daniel Stolgren, John & Marian McClellan, John & Virginia Sullivan, Gwen Quincannon, Stephen & Julie Ahlgren, Carolyn May Essel, David Altwies, James Borden, Dale & Gail Folkers, James & Jean Knavel, Nancy Runkle, Kathleen Molling, Joan Murphy, Matthew Mecca, Sid & Patty Johnson, George & Lauretta Clettenberg, Steve & Betty Thornton, Kathleen Mitchell, Faye Witt, 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.

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