

This week we celebrate our 600th newspaper column with all of “You”. We never thought so much would transpire from the idea of writing a weekly column sharing with all of you the need for poverty assistance in our beautiful communities. No one understood when I told them about the hundreds of hungry and homeless people in our midst. So many of our fellow creations suffered in silence, hidden from view, hungry, cold and ashamed. “We” together changed that forever. “We” opened our friends and neighbors eyes to the plight of our fellow Americans. “We” together opened the doors of the apartments, houses, trailers, cars and motel rooms for all of us to see the suffering. “We” shared together the needs of so many senior citizens, the handicapped, children and working poor families. “We” together cried tears of sadness over the suffering and tears of happiness when we were able to lift up our fellow creations in need and bring about a positive change. Thank “You” for all your years of support of our good works. Thank “You” for reading our column each week and sharing a part of what we do each day at The Time Is Now to Help.

Dear Friends,

Here are some excerpts from letters from those that desperately need our help. There are so many that I am sharing more than one so you can feel what I am encountering.

Dear W.C.,

Can you please help my daughter? She has had a very tough time lately. Last year her husband was killed in a car accident when he was struck by a drunk driver. My daughter was left five months pregnant and with a toddler to care for. She had to give up her job when she was having some problems in her pregnancy. She was not able to make it to full term due to the amount of stress and grief she was going through. She had to give up her apartment and move in with me in my one bedroom apartment. It is very cramped and I have been notified by the management that she has to move out or I will be evicted. My new grandson has had some health problems so my daughter is really struggling to get back and forth to Children’s Hospital. Can you please find it in your heart to help my daughter get back on her feet so she can care for her children on her own?

Dear W.C.,

I am a single mother working for only \$7.90 an hour. I am behind in my rent and utilities due to my son needing glasses and a dentist visit. He was crying from the pain so I had to take him to the dentist. It turned out he had a bad cavity. I could not believe how much it cost me to have this filling done. My son also was having a hard time seeing and getting headaches in school. It turns out he needed glasses. That expense was as shocking as the dentist bill but how could I not get my son the help he needed?

Dear W.C.,

I am an eighty-one year old widow having a hard time due to the costs of propane. I need to have my propane tank filled but cannot afford to have it done. I worry every day that I will

run out. On top of that food costs are so high. I live very frugally and am still able to do most of the chores around my trailer myself but this time I am really worried.

Dear W.C.

My neighbor is widowed and in his eighties. He needs assistance. We can't afford to help him due to our own financial struggles with two children, one with special needs. I found my neighbor the other day crying over his inability to pay his bills. I tried to ask him why he was crying but he was too proud to tell me. I know he is having a hard time because my wife often offers to go over to his small house and do a little cleaning or drop off a plate of food. She told me he has nothing in his refrigerator or cabinets. This has us worried as we too live very cautiously but we have family to help if there was an emergency. I know he has no family or friends other than us.

Dear W.C.,

I am a single mother with a disabled son. I have had to struggle to get him special assistance. I am not able to work as I care for him around the clock. Due to unexpected car repairs I find myself unable to pay my bills this month. Can you please visit us and you will see for yourself the dilemma we are in.

Dear W.C.,

My husband and I have been married for fifty-eight years. My husband has suffered a heart attack and two strokes. We have found ourselves in desperate need of help. We needed help six months ago but I was too embarrassed to ask. I was too proud to apply for the assistance we so desperately need. Now I am not able to pay all our bills. Utilities, rent, telephone ... It is all too much for us now. My husband struggles to learn how to speak and walk again while I struggle to pay our bills.

Dear Readers,

I received this phone call tonight. "I have advanced Macular Degeneration. I can barely see. I desperately need assistance with my food and utilities. Life is very confusing when you have no one to help. I am all alone and it is very frightening. I can no longer write out checks or pay bills online as my center vision is nearly gone.

My dear friends, we are working very hard to get through the many requests for those that are suffering. I will report to you in a future column some of the details of those that we have helped to remove the pains of poverty and improve their lives. This is what our mission of caring and sharing and loving one another is all about. Those of you that answered our plea for financial assistance in our last column, I want to let you know that every dollar you donated is relieving the pains of poverty for our fellow creations. Thank you and God Bless you. Please, please let us stand strong together so we may continue our good works of caring for one another. 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: Clarence & Marilyn Schawk Family Foundation, Bernard Labovitch, Dorothy Heffernan, Community Foundation of So. Wisconsin, Grunow Family Fund, LaVerne & Jean Reu, Christina Tyschenko, Michael & Tamela Dunn, Martin Group, John Stensland & Family, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Petco Foundation, Lake Geneva Petco, First English Lutheran Church, GFWC- Womens Club of East Troy, Single Ladies Koffee Klotch, Noreen Fagan, Marcia Madaus, Michael Burke, DC Mitigation, Henry & Virginia Hertl, Robert Dodge, Karen Anderso, Margarie Egger, Louise & Clifford Morris, Phil & Barbara McMahan, Lauren Grady, Ivan & Ann Lindert, Michael & Kathe Beach, Avis Luchsinger, John Race, Charles Carlson, Ernest & Dorothy Winters, Sylvester & Virginia Seick, Sid & Patty Johnson, Russo Drywall, Gerald & Cheryl Kuhn, Walter & Florence Strumpf, Patricia Jankowski, Richard Green, Jeanette Logterman, Richard & Mary Ruch, Vita Armato, Ronald Szatkowski, Michael & Sally Anne Chier, 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: Laina Papenfus in honor of her parents Tim & Dani Brellinthin's 49th Wedding Anniversary.

Memorials: Ellis Border and Kristen Olson in memory of Landon Petrie, Sr. Carla Matz in memory of Heidi Danner and Harry Bublitz. Ronald & Lily Fibiger in memory of Jeff.

W.C. Food Pantry Update: Due to unforeseen circumstances the W.C. Food Pantry will not be moving until Saturday, January 3, 2014. After that date it will be moved to its new location: 205 E. Commerce St., Elkhorn, WI. 53121. This is in the old Aurora Clinic building off of Hwy. 67 just east of Interstate 43. The food pantry will also have special holiday hours: Closed on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve open on Tuesday, December 23rd & Tuesday December 30th, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Their phone number at their new location is (262) 723-4488.

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