

Dear W.C.,

This past year has been very hard for my family. Last February my husband died from a heart attack. He was in intensive care for over a week but they could not save him. He had been running his own painting business for years. We had no savings even though he had been working 50-60 hour weeks. His business had been just making ends. I was a stay at home Mom that cared for our nineteen year old son with special needs. He had Cystic Fibrosis. In April my son died from his illness. He just seemed to lose his will to live when he lost his beloved father. My son would always stay up and wait for his father to come home from work even though it was long days. It was the highlight of our day to see how happy they were when they were together, living for the moment his father got home. I have a fifteen year old daughter that is still counting on me. She has really suffered over the loss of her father and brother. I don't know how we got through this year with how much grief we have been through. Now all our financial problems are adding to the stress we are feeling. I lost our home to foreclosure when I was unable to make the payments any longer. We have just been notified we have to vacate the home on January 1. How is that for a great way to start the New Year? I also lost my husband's newer truck when I could not make the payments on it. Thank God I have our remaining 1996 truck with 195,000 miles on it. It is in terrible shape and scary to drive when it rains or snows, but it gets us around. I finally got a job as a caregiver but since I am not licensed I cannot get a job at a nursing home or with an agency. I have nineteen years of experience caring for my own son 24 hours a day but it counts for nothing. This has been a year that has carried much change and grief for my daughter and me. If you could help us with first month's rent and security deposit it would be such a huge relief. I keep trying to save for it but I have had to keep up with the large utility bills. I truly hope my daughter and I can be helped by The Time Is Now to Help.

Dear Readers,

As 2015 quickly approaches and the Christmas holiday is behind us we continue to be busy at work answering the many requests for assistance that your generous support will provide. I was overwhelmed by the charitable spirit of the community we share. Popeye's Restaurant wanted to again provide meals for those less fortunate that would not have had a holiday meal or for some any meal for Christmas. The owners Dimitri and Michael Annagnos worked hard all Christmas morning preparing a hot, ready to eat meal of turkey, stuffing, potatoes, carrots and two different pies for twenty families. Some of these were shared with families living in motels for Christmas. Others were given to senior citizens and the handicapped that were spending their holiday alone. All were immensely grateful for Popeye's Restaurant and The Time Is Now to Help. A big thank you and God Bless to Popeye's Restaurant for providing a wonderful holiday meal, allowing our poverty stricken neighbors to celebrate.

I also spent the past week answering many letters that were waiting for our caring and sharing assistance. "You" made sure we were able to answer these pleas for help. Many dissolved into tears when they saw me at their door or heard it was me on the phone. That is the response I received from the writer of this letter of request. The sense of relief that she

felt when she realized it was The Time Is Now to Help at her door caused her to breakdown into tears.

The amount of grief this woman and her daughter had sustained over the past year was more than many could bear. I grasped both the woman's hands and told her we were there to help. I let her finish crying and handed her some tissues to wipe away her tears. She said, "Please come in. I am so rude. Here I am crying while leaving you standing at the door in the cold. No one ever comes to visit so I forgot what it is like to have someone at my door." I could not believe this woman and her daughter were all alone in the world. Once I was inside I glanced around the room. The home was neat and in fair condition, but almost empty of any furniture or belongings. The woman noticed my looking around and commented, "I have had to sell most our furniture and belongings. We needed the money to pay our bills before I got my job. I tried to keep my husband's truck and sell mine but I couldn't keep up with the payments, on top of trying to pay the mortgage and utilities. I should never have been using what little money we had left to pay those bills. Now we have nothing left anyway."

I did not want to ask about the loss of her husband and son until she brought it up herself, when she was ready to talk about such a painful subject. Her daughter came out of her room to meet me and seemed nice but very quiet. I could see the sadness in her eyes and demeanor. After a few minutes she politely said goodbye and went back to her room. The mother sighed when she left saying, "I don't know what to do to make it better for her. She was so close to her brother and when he died after losing her Dad too it changed her. She used to smile everyday but not anymore." I could see the mother wanted to talk about her loss so I let her continue sharing her painful story.

About forty-five minutes later, and after we both shared many tears, the woman seemed to be drained of all energy. She weakly said, "I'm so sorry to share all my burdens and sadness with you." I again grasped her hand and said, "That is what I'm here for. We together are going to get you back on your feet. We are going to help you pick up the pieces and start the New Year with you and your daughter beginning a new phase of your life together. We can help you financially but you will have to work together with your daughter to once more cherish your life. Neither your husband nor your son would want to see you both spending your lives in stress and tears. They would want you both to realize how precious life is, what a gift it is and how short it can be. There lesson would be to show you that you never know when your time to be called home to our loving God will be. It could be tomorrow or it could be in a hundred years. If you live your life doing God's will you will find peace and joy again. I'm sure if your son and husband were here they would tell you it is time to move on and be happy together again." The mother really seemed to understand what I was doing my best to express. She smiled and said, "We must share this with my daughter. It makes so much sense." The mother went to get the daughter and upon her return to the room I could see her reluctance to join in our conversation.

I repeated to the daughter what I had shared with the mother. She sat and listened quietly. I was not sure the daughter got as much out of my theory as the mother had but after a few minutes I saw her face light up. It was the first time I had seen her face change out of its

somber mask. When she made eye contact I saw she had tears in her eyes. She smiled though as she said, “These aren’t sad tears, these are happy tears. You are right. My Dad and brother loved us too. They would not want us acting like this. Even when my brother was so sick and was even waiting for a lung transplant he always would try hard to make me laugh. He was in a prayer group at his church and always made sure I came with him. He even told me he knew his life was going to be short but he loved every minute of it. Until our Dad died and he just seemed to lose the strength to fight it any longer. I need to find a reason to smile every day, just like he wanted me to when he was alive. Mom, Dad and my brother would not want us to be so sad all the time.” We were all crying now, but this time the tears were different. They were not bitter or filled with grief. They were tears of realization and hope.

After this emotional realization we moved on to helping them financially. The eviction from the foreclosure was coming soon and there was no time to waste in getting them into an affordable rental. The mother had already done her research and had found a decent rental that she could afford once the security deposit and first month’s rent were paid by The Time Is Now to Help. When I told the mother and daughter we would help them with this I saw them both smile together. I could tell it had been a long time since that had happened. Some much needed healing had taken place during my visit.

We took a walk outside to look at her old truck. It was in terrible condition with bald tires and in need of some much needed costly repairs. I knew it was too far gone to even consider putting money into repairing. I put her on the list for the next available vehicle hoping it would last that long, if not we would need to purchase a used vehicle that could safely get the mother to her job.

I told both the mother and daughter we would help with some household necessities when they moved into the rental, since they had sold most their belongings. This would give them the fresh start they needed.

This assistance happened last year at this time. It has been a year since our caring and sharing changed their lives forever. The mother has found a better job that gives them the increase in income they needed. A donated vehicle has improved their transportation substantially. The daughter now has a job and babysits for children in their building when she has time. They attend church once more and support groups at their church. They both seem to have a new outlook on life even though they have endured so much pain. They both shared with me at our last visit that this outlook was all due to The Time Is Now to Help. They said “We” opened their eyes to the blessings in life and doing God’s will. They said it was indeed a New Year for them both. Happy New Year to all of “You”. We could not do this without you.

You can be assured that together we will continue our mission in the New Year. We will continue providing our much needed assistance to our fellow Americans, removing their pains of poverty. Thanks to Fox Charities providing us with the Christmas Wish \$25,000 Matching Grant every donation will be matched dollar for dollar. Please donate at this time

knowing your donation, along with Fox Charities matching funds, will be used 100% to provide assistance to the poverty stricken. 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, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Paul Ziegler, Clarence & Marilyn Schawk Family Foundation, Bernard Labovitch, Dorothy Heffernan, John & Valerie Lincoln, Lake Geneva Country Meats, Community Foundation of So. Wisconsin, Grunow Family Fund, LaVerne & Jean Reu, Jay Ieronimo, Rotary Club of Lake Geneva, Martin Group, John Stensland & Family, Mary Kay Ring, Randy Hawkins, Millenium Auto Exchange, Oasis Salon, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Robert Hogan, C&N Drywall & Painting, The Dolan Family Foundation, Gregory & Jean Marie Dexter, Dr. & Mrs. Steven Hall, Ken & Alice Etten, Patricia Deback, James & Maureen Lippert, Joseph & Laura Murphy, Daniel & Linda Necci, Barry & Margo Goldberg, Michael & Susan Gregersen, Stewart & Carol Calkins, Deb & Halverson, Carole May, Gerald & Marilyn Wilkin, Emery & Jean Barnes, Peter & Gail Nieuwehuis, Delores Olson, Charles & Penny Gruetzmacher, Danny & Laura Johnson, Thomas & Laurie Fellenz, Susan Leonard, Warren Hatch, Jack & Mary Lou Mc Kinney, Karen Aasen, Michol Ann Ford, Marilyn Kolovos, Robert & Carol Danielewicz, David Williams, St. James United Methodist Church, Dolores Rich, Joan Marabito Rietz, 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:** Les & Pauline Malsch in honor of the following birthdays: Ron & Sue Kerkman, Mary Stinebrink, Mary Jean Gauger, Barbara Giovonnoni. Diane Ripple in honor of Dave Ripple.

**Memorials:** Ruby Recknagel in memory of her husband Delmar Recknagel. Barbara Madsen in memory of her Uncle Tony Vranak. Les & Pauline Malsch in memory of Darlene Roen and in memory of their family members. Randolph Williams in memory of Glenn Dyer.

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