

Dear W.C.,

You helped my family a year and a half ago when my husband was dying from cancer. At the time you came to visit he was very sick and it was not easy to watch his suffering. I remember how you took the time to sit and talk with him. Not many people did that and it meant a lot to him. He talked about The Time Is Now to Help for days and it really helped him get through his last few weeks knowing his family was cared for and would not become homeless.

After my husband died I remember you called to check up on us and offered us some additional help to get us through the hardest time of my children's and my life. I want to let you know how much that meant to us. You are the only one that truly offered. Both of our extended families were too wrapped up in their own lives to ever offer help when my husband was alive much less when he passed. None of them even gave gifts or flowers at his funeral. I really think they only showed up for the food and in hopes of getting a free drink.

Anyway, in the past year I lost our home to foreclosure. I have not been able to find a job that pays enough to cover all our expenses. I have a part-time job now and continue to look for something better. That at least keeps food on the table. I sold my husband's truck and many of his personal belongings to try and save our home. We are about to be evicted at the sheriff's sale and have nowhere to go. Another problem is I have my husband's dog that I promised him I would never give up. You may remember him lying in bed with my husband. He refused to leave his side, even after my husband died. Well, my letter is getting long and I still have not gotten to what help we need. My highest priority right now is getting into a rental that is safe and allows our dog. My children are now ten and thirteen. I would like to keep them in the same school district as they have had enough change in their young lives already. We also need a repair on my car. I should have listened to you when you advised me over a year ago to let the house go and sell my car. Instead I lost all my husband's belongings, including his better vehicle, trying to save the house we could not afford. In my grief I was not thinking right but I am thinking right now. Please find it in your heart to help again. This time I will follow your advice.

Desperate Mother

Dear Readers,

In the past we have helped those that find themselves in difficult situations more than once. It would not be realistic for some people to turn their lives around with one visit and one food delivery. Sometimes there are circumstances that continue to prevent our fellow creations from moving forward. It could be an ongoing illness, lengthy job search or difficult personal situation. We try to be there until these people can move on successfully. Our advice is not always taken. Our suggestions sometimes are not tried. Our help will still be given to those that are truly in need and honestly share their difficulties.

I remembered my first visit to this woman and her terminally ill husband very clearly. He was in the final stages of his disease but living at home on hospice care. I remember our very

spiritual conversation and praying together in between his bouts of pain and fatigue. The wife had been trying to hide their financial situation from the husband as she did not want to distress him any further. When I spoke to the husband he knew what was going on anyway. How could he not as he had been running his own business out of his home with his wife's help for several years. He knew their income came to a screeching halt when he was no longer well enough to work. He knew his home payments and utilities could not be kept up with. After he passed away the wife tried to save the home by selling everything she could to make the payments. She did not call The Time Is Now to Help until she knew they would become homeless without our assistance one more time.

I went to visit the mother and children at the home I remembered from my previous visit. When the door was opened by one of the children we recognized each other, even though they had grown since my last visit. He called his mother to the door and she invited me inside. After speaking with the children for a few minutes they both went to their room. I then took a look around the empty house. The furniture that had been there at my last visit was no longer there. There was a box by the door and the mother commented they were her husband's last items of clothing she could not sell so she was going to donate them to a charity resale shop. I felt her sadness over parting with these last reminders of her beloved husband.

The mother showed me where we could sit and talk in the kitchen at a folding table and chairs. I could not believe every piece of furniture was gone. The mother said the only thing she had kept was their beds, a dresser and their dishes. I asked the mother when they would be required to leave and she stated in two weeks. That would not give us much time to find a rental that also allowed pets but I could not let our family give up on the promise they had made to the departed husband. The mother let the dog in from the yard and he happily came to greet me, as if he remembered who I was from my visit a year and a half before. I had brought a special treat in my pocket for the dog as I remembered his love for treats. I noticed even his face had grown older and grayer. When I commented on this the wife told me how badly the dog had grieved over her husband's passing. She said, "I was so worried he would not even make it. There were days he would not eat or get off my husband's hospital bed. When they came to pick up the hospital bed he whined for days. He is finally starting to play again with the kids." I patted the good dog on the head knowing we would have to find a place to include him.

After talking with the mother about the foreclosure and their other financial difficulties I asked to see her budget. I asked why she had not taken my advice before about letting the home go and finding a rental sooner, before all their items were sold. They could have survived twice as long with the funds from the sale of all the furniture in a much cheaper rental. The mother told me how she had hoped to save the house due to all the happy memories she had there with her husband but now she knew it was the grief making that decision. She said she realized now it was the happy memories in their hearts that they could carry with them everywhere. I knew she was ready to move on and maybe this time follow my advice to keep her family in secure housing.

We talked about the mother's part-time job and continuing job search. She had very good computer and bookkeeping skills but lacked a degree in these areas. I knew of a job opening that I could provide a referral for to increase her chances of getting the job. This job would give her family the financial security they needed to survive going forward. The mother said she could even continue her part-time job as she had some flexibility with her hours. That would really help them if she could find the time to work two jobs successfully.

After going over some of the rentals the mother had been researching I spotted one that could possibly work. It was small but close to school and the possibility of her new job. The mother was eager to go see it so I called the landlord that I had worked with in the past. He had his reservations about allowing a pet but after I told him I knew the dog and could confirm I saw no damage or mess at the present home he agreed to allow the dog without adding on a monthly charge. The mother was so relieved with this news she began to cry. Her children came running in the room when they heard their mother crying. They both asked, "Mom, Mom what's wrong?" The mother grabbed them both in a hug and said, "We have a place to move to with Sammy. We won't have to give Daddy's dog away. You also get to go to the same school. Thank Mr. Sal and The Time Is Now to Help. He made it all possible." Both boys turned to me with wide eyes and smiles on their faces. I could see how much this meant to them as they picked up the dog and danced around the room while hugging him. Thanks to all of "You" we kept these children from enduring anymore sadness and loss in their lives. We together kept them with their beloved reminder of their father, his dog Sammy.

After they calmed down we finished going over all the details of what would happen in the next few weeks. I made some more suggestions and this time the mother said, "I promise I will follow your advice this time. I know you have been doing this for many years and you know what works. I do not want to ever have to write you again asking for help. The only time I want you to hear from me again is when I make a donation or volunteer." I told her we will both look forward to that day. In the mean time I am happy to report they have moved to the apartment and are much happier with the smaller, affordable space. The mother is able to work both her full-time and part-time job. We provided her with a more reliable car and she sold her old car, allowing her to purchase some used furniture. The family was ready to make these changes now. We were happy to help them one more time ensuring they could make it on their own.

Please consider donating at this time as every dollar of your donation will be matched by the Fox Charities \$25,000 Christmas Miracles Matching Grant. It is such a blessing to have all of "You" and Fox Charities beside us in our efforts to remove the pains of poverty. God Bless you for your support of our mission and all our good works "We" accomplish together.

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, Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust, Dorothy Heffernan, Bess Spiva Timmons Foundation, Virginia Klaus, The Petco Foundation, Paul Ziegler, Gregg Kunes & Kunes' Country Auto Group, John & Valerie Lincoln, Martin Business, Lake Geneva Country Meats, Gregory & Jean Dexter, LaVerne & Jean Reu, Joseph Shaughnessy, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schuberth, Aurora Health Care Employee Partnership Campaign, Kurt Bruekert, Roy & Gloria Pfeifer, Dr. Mark & Cynthia Brower, James & Mary Johnson, Elkhorn Chemical & Packaging, Mary Dunham, Bruce & Loretta Adsit, Merwyn & Marilyn Taylor, Timothy Greene, Don & Julie Kalvestrand, Barbara Eisenhower, Tim Kiederling, Twin Bay Charitable Foundation, Robert Ribordy, Josephine Carpentero, Jeanne Allen, Robert Sheridan, Joan Marabito Rietz, Mary Ann Hettich, Debra June Leonhardt, Douglas & Jean Chase, Doug & Janet Muzatko & Friends from Millard Community Church, Donald Lightfield, and 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: Duane Harma in memory of his wife Donna Harma. Debra Harry in memory of Donna Harma. P.J. Electric in memory of Jean Watts. Keeley Family Foundation in memory of John L. Keeley, Jr.

W.C. Food Pantry: The W.C. Food Pantry is located at: 205 E. Commerce St., Elkhorn, WI. 53121. This is in the old Aurora Clinic building off of Hwy. 67 just east of Interstate 43. Their phone number is (262) 723-4488.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org