

Dear W.C.,

I know a woman that lives with her disabled daughter in an apartment in an older home. Yesterday her apartment was badly damaged when the apartment downstairs from her caught fire. Everything she owns was damaged by smoke and she cannot afford to replace it. Thank God they were not home at the time of the fire. Now they need a place to live, clothing, furniture and beds. I am sure they would be very grateful for any help The Time is Now to Help can provide.

Dear Readers,

I had several voicemails in regards to helping this mother and her disabled daughter, in addition to this letter. I called the letter writer as I did not have a contact phone number for the woman and I had thought she would not be living in the smoke damaged apartment. After speaking to the friend that wrote the letter it turns out I was wrong to assume they were not living in the apartment. Even with the overwhelming smell of smoke on every surface, the woman and her daughter was still living in the apartment. They had nowhere else to go. I asked the friend if he had offered to provide them emergency shelter and he shared he was living with several male roommates and it would not have been an ideal situation for this mother and her teenage daughter with physical and learning disabilities. It wasn't an ideal situation for them to be living somewhere that was as unsafe as their apartment either.

I immediately went to the apartment to get them moved to safer shelter. When I arrived I did not see much damage from the fire on the outside but I know that smoke and water damage can be just as bad as fire damage. The house was dark and it was getting dark when I arrived. I could smell the smoke and there was a definite chill in the air so I was glad I would be moving them somewhere safe that night.

I knocked on the door in the quiet home and there was not an answer. I knew they had to be there so I knocked again and this time shouted through the door that it was W.C. from The Time Is Now to Help. I had a feeling they were not authorized to be living in those conditions and were probably hiding that fact. I waited quietly until they thought I had left and heard some noise coming from inside. This time I knocked and said, "I know you are in there. Please let me in. I am here to help." I waited a few more minutes and finally heard the door open. A disheveled looking woman stood there in her coat. I showed her my identification and she let me in.

The apartment was filled with smoke damage. The walls and surfaces were dark from smoke. The windows were all open so it was cold and getting dark. I saw the disabled daughter sitting in a chair with a blanket around her. The mother introduced me. I asked the mother if she would be willing to move to a motel with the daughter. After I convinced her how bad this environment was for both her daughter's and her health she finally agreed. She not only agreed she burst into tears. Between her tears she tried to tell me how scared they were and how they had just paid their rent the week before the fire so they had no money. Their belongings were all ruined. The mother said, "How will I replace all this? It isn't fancy but it is all we have." I told her not to worry we would be there to help them and told her we

would talk more once she was out of the cold and smoke damaged apartment. I was feeling light headed from just my few minutes in that apartment. I gave her the address of where to go and told her I would meet her there with some volunteers. The mother told me she was going to start packing but I told her to leave everything behind as we would be getting them everything they needed. The mother grabbed her purse and I helped them out the door.

We were met at the motel by two of our women volunteers. I had texted them a list of items needed to get the women through the night. I had asked the mother for both her and the daughter's sizes so they would at least have a clean change of clothes and pajamas. The volunteers also picked up some toiletries, a hot meal for dinner and some snacks and breakfast food. I had called the motel to arrange for a room with a kitchenette as I knew they would probably need to be there for some time until we could arrange a more permanent housing situation.

The mother and daughter walked into the motel kitchenette and I could see the relief they felt not having to spend another night in the cold, dark and smoke ruined apartment. After the volunteers showed them the items purchased and the hot meal ready for them to eat I could see the mother and daughter were very grateful, hugging each other. They thanked the volunteers profusely for their help and said their goodbyes. The daughter was very hungry so we set up the hot meal on the small table in the room. While the women ate hungrily I asked questions about the mother's job and financial situation.

The mother shared how her daughter had been born disabled. Her husband had passed away several years after her daughter's birth and she had never married again. Her daughter was now nineteen but not capable of living on her own. The mother said, "She will probably live with me her whole life but that's okay. I love her and we are best friends. She is not an imposition or a burden. She is capable of being home for a few hours at a time which allows me to go to work part-time. I don't earn much but between her SSD and my small income we get by month to month." I knew they probably got by until an emergency such as this one came up.

We put together a budget. After going over all their expenses I saw they could get by only in a very inexpensive rental. They were fine living in a one bedroom apartment. I told her we would help them find that special rental they needed. The mother did not want to move from her apartment as they had lived there for years and it was very inexpensive. I told her about the dangers of living in the smoke and water damaged building and how it would be a long time until that building was suitable for inhabitants again. She took that into account and followed my advice on finding another apartment. When she began to distress over her furniture, bedding and clothing I told her not to worry. I told her about all of "You" and your generosity that allowed us to provide the assistance she would need. When I showed her our website she was in awe over all "We" had accomplished together.

The next few weeks were busy as the mother helped us to find a suitable rental. We finally found one that they could afford on their very limited income. An added bonus was a laundry room they shared with two other renters so they would no longer have the expense of a Laundromat. Once the apartment was secured we were able to purchase two twin beds for the

mother and daughters shared bedroom. We also provided new bedding, towels and other household necessities. Once the volunteers saw the space that was left a couch, television and small table and chairs appeared. When we asked the volunteers about these items they said, "These were just a few things I had sitting in my garage I was going to sell anyway." When we looked at how nice they were we knew they probably were moved to donate them to these women. After two weeks living in the motel these women were happily living in their now cozy apartment. When walking in the mother stopped and looked around her, saying, "I can't believe in two weeks time we have gone from traumatized to happy. I feel like pinching myself. Is this real? Is this how everyone feels that The Time Is Now helps?" I had tears in my eyes when she said this, tears of gratitude for all of you who make our good works possible.

Thanks to your generosity we have almost met the Fox Charities \$25,000 Christmas Miracles Matching Grant. Please consider donating at this time as every dollar of your donation will be matched. 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, Priebe Family Foundation, Dorothy Heffernan, Mary Kay Ring, The Petco Foundation, Paul Ziegler, Gregg Kunes & Kunes' Country Auto Group, John & Valerie Lincoln, Martin Business, Lake Geneva Country Meats, Gregory & Jean Dexter, Joseph Shaughnessy, Twin Bay Charitable Foundation, Robert Ribordy, Douglas & Jean Chase, Lakeland Trash Service, John & Sally Dicmas, Marshal & Susan Ketchpaw, Ted Bluey, Marilyn Carver, Michol Ann Ford, Mary Ellen Last, 4 Aces Bridge Club, Sue Kremer, Katie Larsen, Gail Wolf, Jane Frye, Barb Welkos, Donna Rogers, Bev Voskull, Lorraine Norem, Terry Savage, Henry & Virginia Hertl, WN Yoss Construction, Charles & Donna Corson, Barbara Spiegelhoff, William & Cheri McBride, David & Marty Altwies, Carolyn May Essel, Gerald & Joyce Byers, Lee & Betty Hayles 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. Marvin & Audrey Hersko in memory of Barbara Hersko and Don Wunderlin. Keeley Family Foundation in memory of John L. Keeley, Jr. Frank & Mary Jean Gauger in memory of Robert George. Carla Matz in memory of Heidi Danner and Harry Bublitz.

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