

The Time Is Now to Help has been blessed with a new matching grant opportunity. Generous and compassionate donors have come forward to provide the Family Foundation \$30,000 Matching Grant to begin immediately. Please help us show our overwhelming appreciation for their charitable giving. The good works we will do together with these matching grant funds will help many of our poverty stricken neighbors in the weeks to come.

Dear W.C.,

My Grandmother and I are in desperate need of your help. We both have medical problems and are struggling to make ends meet. I am writing to see if you can help us with our rent and utilities this month. We have had several unexpected expenses from an emergency room visit for myself and our car is on its last leg. We have had to put our rent money into keeping the car running so I can take both of us to our doctor's appointments and my Grandma to therapy. She had a stroke three months ago and it has been a long recovery. I moved in with her to care for her after her stroke and to keep her from being all alone. This arrangement has worked out well for both of us. I had to give up my job due to my Grandma needing much more care than I thought. I could not leave her alone while I went to work. I am a Type 1 diabetic, which means I have been diabetic since I was a child. My grandmother raised me when both my parents died at a young age. I feel it is my turn to take care of her. We have no one else left in our family. It is just the two of us. Could you please help us catch up on our rent and utilities?

Dear Readers,

There are so many letters full of desperation each week in our mailbox. We also are flooded with phone calls and emails requesting emergency assistance. Each week we also receive letters requesting information about our charity, phone calls and emails from potential volunteers and generous people that want to donate furniture or clothing. I apologize we are not able to answer each and every letter, email or phone call because we are very busy taking care of people suffering in the pains of poverty. Our focus has to be on providing the desperately needed poverty assistance to those that are in greatest need. At this time we have a waiting list for volunteer opportunities. We are so grateful for our volunteers that give of their time and energy. Most have been with us for many years. We also do not have the time to answer every letter or phone call asking questions about our charity. We could spend eight hours a day on that task alone. Any questions you may have about The Time Is Now to Help can usually be answered by visiting our website, Facebook page or by just reading this column. We believe our mission statement explains everything you need to know about our charity, "The Time Is Now exists solely for the purpose of alleviating the suffering of those who find themselves facing economic hardship. The Time Is Now's continuing goal is to make sure every cent donated is utilized to provide goods and services, such as food, clothing, utilities, toiletries, automobile assistance, and shelter assistance to help the extremely poverty-stricken children, senior citizens, disabled, veterans and families live more comfortably, improve their quality of life, and remove their pain and suffering." That is where every penny of your donation is being used. That is how we spend every minute of our day to help those in need. We are extremely grateful that we have "You" our wonderful

donors and our generous matching grant providers beside us on this mission to remove the pains of poverty.

This granddaughter and grandmother are just one of the many letters we have received requesting our special kind of assistance. Each letter is read and recipient is researched before we call or arrive at their doorstep. These women were found to be truly in need of our help. I put their letter in the top of the pile for home visits that either I or volunteers would visit that day.

I arrived at the door of the grandmother's apartment. The door was quickly answered by who I assumed was the granddaughter. After I provided my identification she invited me inside. She led me in the apartment and introduced me to her Grandmother seated on the sofa. She sat with a walker in front of her and I could see there was some paralysis in her face. She tried to reach out for my hand so I stepped forward to take it. I sat down next to her on the sofa as I could see she was struggling to look up. She slowly said, "Thank you for coming to visit. It has been so long since I had a visitor." The granddaughter loudly repeated who I was, explaining her grandmother had some hearing loss. I could see the grandmother was happy I was there.

The granddaughter asked if I would mind talking in the kitchen as her grandmother might be upset if she knew they were having financial problems. She kindly asked the grandmother if she needed anything and then put the television on for her. Once the grandmother was watching TV comfortably we went to the kitchen to talk.

The granddaughter gave me a quick review of their situation, explaining their financial dilemma and their health difficulties. She told me about her worsening health problems due to her diabetes, even though she had an insulin pump and followed a strict diet plan. We talked about her grandmother's stroke and her slow recovery. The grandmother had Type 2 Diabetes which added to her health problems. I could see at this time the grandmother was not able to be left on her own. The granddaughter had her bills, late notices and a budget ready to review.

I asked if she minded if I took a quick look around the small kitchen and she told me to make myself at home. I opened the refrigerator and saw some medications but little food. I asked the granddaughter about their food security and she shared they had been low on fresh foods lately, even though they were important for both the women. She said the medications, car repairs and gas for the car had been all they were able to afford. I knew they would probably need a different car to eliminate the constant car repairs. The granddaughter told me she had applied for disability but was waiting on her determination. This too would help their budget going forward.

To help them immediately I called on one of our volunteers to pick up food after asking the granddaughter what foods she and her grandmother liked and were acceptable on their diets. Once that was done we moved on to the utility bills and overdue rent notice. I put together a list of bills we would pay that would help them until a reliable donated vehicle could be provided. The rent was reasonable and I could see the utility usage was minimal, indicating they had been very sparing with their heat and lights over the past months. When the

granddaughter heard the grandmother calling for her she excused herself and rushed to help the grandmother to the bathroom. While they were in the bathroom I took a look around the apartment and noted how clean it was. The beds were made and the dishes drying on a rack. The furniture and fixtures in the apartment were old but well cared for. When the granddaughter returned she asked if I would like a snack and some tea. She said she and the grandmother needed to eat at regular intervals to prevent blood sugar fluctuations. I declined but told her to please follow her routine. I was glad to see the care she was giving to both the grandmother and herself in managing their diabetes.

Once they finished their snack we went back to work putting together a plan that would help these two women survive going forward. We together provided three months rent to prevent this senior citizen and her loving granddaughter from becoming homeless. We also paid their utilities up to date and into the future so the granddaughter would no longer have to be so frugal with the lights and heat. We provided grocery and gas station gift cards to help them have healthy food and to get to their doctors and therapy. As I told the granddaughter all we would help them with she looked at me in shock. I asked if she was alright and all she could do was shake her head in disbelief. When she finally tried to speak she began crying instead. After a moment I said, "There are many good people that donate to The Time is Now. They are the reason we can help you like this. They want to help you and your grandmother." In between her tears the granddaughter managed to say, "Please tell those wonderful people thank you from my Grandma and me. I don't know how we would have survived without them and The Time is Now to Help. We would have become homeless."

When I was gathering my notes and preparing to leave the grandmother called out once more. Both the granddaughter and I went to the living room to see what she needed. The grandmother again reached out for my hand so I sat down beside her. I got tears in my eyes as she struggled to say, "I remember who you are now. I used to read your story in the newspaper each week. I know why you are here. My granddaughter thinks I don't see her cry sometimes and worry. Now I know it is not just her worrying about me. If you are here to help her, thank you and God Bless you." I continued to hold her hand as I said, "We have it all resolved now. There is nothing for you or your granddaughter to worry about. God Bless you too."

This granddaughter and her grandmother are just two of the hundreds helped each year thanks to "You". This new Family Foundation \$30,000 Matching Grant opportunity is the perfect way for us to continue our goal of helping even more people in 2016. Please consider a donation at this time knowing it will be matched dollar for dollar, doubling your donation. The lives changed are all due to "You". 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, Priebe Family Foundation, Dorothy Heffernan, Mary Kay Ring, Paul Ziegler, John & Valerie Lincoln, Martin Business, Gregory & Jean Dexter, Allen Hermansen, Bernard Labovitch, Lake Geneva Economic Development, Edward Hechmann, Scott & Lisa Stearns, JP Ieronimo, Michele Goodier, Glen & Vicki Whitmore, The Sowers House, C&N Drywall & Painting, Jennifer Wroble, Jill Weckesser, Kelly Tomaske, Margaret Plevak, William Davit, J.T. Marty, Deborah Lenchard, Nancy Geidel, Margaret Guidarelli, Barbara Heatley, Bridget Linhart, Christina Tyschenko, Peggy Stopple, Diane Ripple, Marlee Carlson, Alex Dahlstrom, Richard & Christina Costa, Gregory Kenwood, Mike & Sharon Schuchardt, Marshall Groom, Karin Collamore, Lawrence Fohrman, Jean Perpich, David & Sharon Ripple, James & Maria Sharpe, Gregory & Kathryn Pryor, Charles Horisberger, John Jacob, Lori Baldwin, Kevin Eulgen, 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:** Jody, Craig Jr. and Cara in loving memory of Craig Cook, Sr. Keeley Family Foundation in memory of John L. Keeley, Jr. Patti Sarna in memory of her mother Vicki Swartz. Marion Richter in memory of her husband Ray Richter. Robert & Mary Ann Zelenski in memory of Ray Richter and Bob Koenen. Louise Bender in memory of Wesley Bender.

**Honoraries:** Paul Ziegler in honor of Richard Torhorst. Adam Getzen in honor of Thomas Getzen. Michael & Nancy McCabe in honor of Janet Rosenberg. Lawrence & Laurie Tess in honor of their Dad Jack Rowe.

**Prayer Chain:** There have been numerous requests for a prayer chain addition to our weekly column. Please pray for healing for the following people: Caroline, Clarence, Ryan, Jayden, Santina, Alex, Lily, Kaitlyn, Kynesha, Brandi's Grandma.

**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)