

Dear W.C.,

I am not writing this letter for myself, I am writing for my daughter. I am at the end stages of breast cancer. I have been fighting this for over four years. I do not have much time left but I desperately need to know my daughter and grandchildren will be able to survive once I'm gone. I know I am the reason she is struggling to get by. I have had multiple surgeries and rounds of chemo and radiation. After my mastectomy and when I began chemo I became so ill she insisted on moving in to my home to care for me. She had to take many days off work to take care of me. Last year she gave up her job completely as I became more and more incapacitated. We are only getting by on the small amount of child support she receives and my small social security. Her unemployment ran out several months ago. We are behind in our utilities. My daughter's car died and we could not afford to have it fixed so she is now driving my sixteen year old car that we are surprised still starts. I know I do not have much time left. I do not want to leave this world knowing I am the reason my daughter and grandchildren will be struggling in poverty. Can you please help my daughter get back on her feet so I can leave this world in peace?

Dear Readers,

Due to the grave nature of this request I went to visit these women and children as soon as possible. I could feel the urgency the grandmother was feeling as her cancer progressed. The time to help definitely was now.

I arrived at the grandmother's small old home. I walked to the door and knocked softly, not wanting to disturb the woman if she was resting. I heard children's voices and a woman telling them to be quiet because their grandma was sleeping. In a moment the door was opened by a woman that I assumed was the daughter. I introduced myself and presented my identification. After we spoke a moment the woman invited me inside. She told me her mother was resting but we could talk. The woman told me how her mother had told her about writing a letter to The Time Is Now to Help. I asked how the mother was feeling today and if she would be up to talking with me when she awoke. The daughter told me, "Every day she is a little weaker and has more pain. But if I don't let her talk to you she will be devastated. That is all my mother talks about these days. She is so worried about me and the kids. I try to tell her she does not need to worry, I will find another job and we will be fine, but she can't seem to stop worrying about us." I told the daughter to let her mother rest for now while we went over their financial situation. I could wait to speak to her when she awoke.

The daughter showed me the small two bedroom home they all were sharing. The daughter told me how it had been her grandparent's home and when they had passed they left it to her mother. The home was very old and in need of some updates. There were several leaks in the roof and their refrigerator was not working. Their furnace was in need of service. These were all things that they had not been able to keep up with both physically and financially while the mother struggled to fight cancer. The daughter told me the mother had taken out a reverse mortgage on the home and they had not been able to keep up with the payments. I watched as she tearfully slid over a foreclosure notice. The daughter said, "I have hidden this from my mother because it would upset her too much. I do not want her to know we will lose the

house. She does not have much time left and I am hoping we can stay here until the good Lord calls her home.” The daughter was crying but quickly wiping away her tears so the children did not see her distress. After looking over the home and the amount of repairs that would be needed to make it hospitable for the women and children I realized sadly she would have to give up her mother’s home.

I asked the daughter how much time the doctors said her mother had left. The daughter shared that the doctors said the mother only had a few months at most. This brought on more tears as the daughter said, “I don’t know what I am going to do without my mother. She has been there for me my whole life. She has always been my rock. That is why I had to take this time off work to care for her properly and make sure she is not alone. I could not leave her home alone after she had her painful surgery and then the chemo that completely wiped her out. She could not even bring a glass of water to her mouth much less get up to use the bathroom on her own. Then she survived all that to only have it spread to her liver a year after her last treatment. She has suffered so much with this and I know the only reason she is hanging on is for me and the kids.” After looking over their budget and bills and talking to the daughter I knew we needed to help them by removing their pains of poverty.

I spoke to the daughter about her job and her job skills. She showed me her resume she had already typed up. It confirmed she had an excellent work history until the previous year she had taken off to care for her mother. I asked if her previous employer would give her an excellent reference. The daughter said, “Not only will they give me an excellent reference they actually asked if I would be interested in coming back to work for them. The person they hired to replace me is leaving and they want to hire me again. They even offered a raise.”

We talked about the condition of the home. I told the daughter when the foreclosure was final we would be there to help them with first month’s rent and security deposit. We also would trade a donated refrigerator for their broken refrigerator to get them through the next few months with refrigerated food. The daughter began crying again, this time happy tears. She said, “You have no idea how much this is going to help us. We have been eating boxed food for weeks. We have been using powdered milk and eating peanut butter sandwiches for dinner. My mom does not feel like eating any of those foods. I can finally get some good food in the house that my mom will hopefully want to eat.”

Just then I heard a weak voice calling the daughters name through a baby monitor. The daughter explained she used the baby monitor to listen to her mother in case she needed her. The daughter excused herself and rushed to help the mother. After a few minutes I heard the daughter call me in to see the mother. I followed her voice to what I assumed was the mothers bedroom. The daughter was helping the mother to sit up with the help of some pillows and tucking the blankets lovingly around her. She helped her mother take a sip of water from a glass with a straw. Just then the mother looked up and met my eyes. I saw the ravages of the disease that was slowly stealing her life away. I also saw the look of relief that crossed her face when she realized we were there to help. The mother reached out for my hand and I hurried over to take it. The daughter pushed over a chair she said she used to sit with her mother at night. I sat down next to her and introduced myself. The mother said

weakly, “There are no introductions necessary. I have prayed and prayed you would come in time.” I continued to hold the mother’s frail hand as she caught her breath. “I can finally rest now that I know you are here. I read about The Time Is Now to Help and I just had a feeling you were the answers to all my prayers.” The mother and I spoke together and she shared with me her long struggle. She was a young widow and had raised her daughter on her own. Life had not been easy for the mother but she had always managed to get by. The mother said, “I do not want to leave my daughter and grandchildren in poverty. I know my daughter is hiding some of the financial stuff from me because she does not want to worry me. I know I don’t have much time left. I just want to know they will be okay when I’m gone.” Silent tears were going down her face and I watched as the daughter wiped them away with tissues saying, “Don’t cry Mom. We will be fine. I already told you I will be getting my old job back with a raise. You just rest and try to relax.” The mother’s grasp on my hand was getting weaker and weaker so I set her hand down on the bed. I could see she was already struggling to keep her eyes open. The daughter said, “Mom, you can rest now. Sal and I will take care of everything.” The daughter said to me, “She is very tired from the medicine I just gave her. She will sleep some more now. Let’s go talk in the kitchen again.”

The daughter and I finished going over their budget and the assistance we would provide. In addition to the refrigerator we would also be paying their overdue utilities to prevent disconnection and having the daughter’s car repaired. After I looked over both cars I noted the daughter’s car was in better shape and worth getting the repairs done on. We provided them with grocery and gas gift cards. The daughter was very excited to hear of the assistance we would be providing. She said, “I can’t wait for my mother to wake up and hear the news. She will be overjoyed. We can’t thank The Time Is Now to Help enough. God Bless You.” I told the daughter to keep in touch and promised we would be there in the future to help them get back on their feet.

Three weeks passed before I heard from the daughter again. The daughter tearfully told me how her mother had passed peacefully at home with her and the children by her side. The daughter read to me a note the mother had left saying, “Dear Sal, There are no words that can express how grateful I am to you and your organization. I am finally able to let go and join my dear husband in heaven. I can go to heaven knowing my daughter and grandchildren are safe and will be fine when I am gone. God Bless you for this priceless gift you have given my family.” The daughter and I were both crying after she finished reading the note. When I could finally speak again I told the daughter about the plan I had worked out over the past few weeks for her and the children. The daughter was returning to her job the following week. Her car was repaired and now a safe reliable vehicle to get her to her job. The daughter and children would stay in the mother’s home until the beginning of the next month when we would provide security deposit and two month’s rent so they could move into an affordable apartment. Just as we were about to say goodbye the daughter said, “Wait. I have to tell you something. I just want to let you know how much it means to me that you were able to give my Mom those last few weeks without worry. She even had less pain and was able to eat some of the food I was able to buy thanks to you. You gave her the best last two weeks she could have had. I can never thank you enough for that.” Those last few weeks were thanks to all of “You” and the assistance we are able to provide due to your support.

These are just a few of the people we help every week at The Time is Now to Help thanks to “You”. There are many of our fellow creations suffering in the pains of poverty. Together we remove that suffering. Not only do all of you make a big difference in the lives of our fellow Americans but all of you give us the strength to continue our good works knowing we are not alone. Together our mission of Caring and Sharing with Gods direction will change the lives of many. Thank you, thank you for helping those in desperate need. Please consider donating at this time and every donation will be met dollar for dollar by the Family Foundation \$30,000 Matching Grant doubling the help that is given. 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, Paul Ziegler, , Martin Business, Bernard Labovitch, Kunes' Country Ford-Lincoln of Delavan, Richard & Linda Rossetti, Jeanne Allen, Dorothy Butek, Aurora Health Care Employee Partnership, Gene Krauklis, Tom Wigton, Jeanne Mc Donald, Mary Cucchi, Heidi Hall, Shawna Kneipper, Mike & Kim Olsen, Alex Dahlstrom, Rhonda Lee DeSautels, Debra Guzman, Gregory Swanson, David Copeland, JT Marty, William Davit, Margaret Guidarelli, Rick Davis, Marlee Carlson, Karin Collamore, Chad Wenzel, Paypal Giving Fund, Jamie Gwaltney, Gale Baccetti, Edythe Degood, Margaret Plevak, Gerald & Joyce Byers, James & Marilyn Dyer, Carol Hinners, Community Church of Richmond, Huvey & June Haskins, Jr., Marvin & Audrey Hersko, John & Rita Race, Yvonne Mol, Beth & Jody Rendall, 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.

Honoraries: Yvonne Mol in honor of Pauline Malsch's Birthday. Virgil & Sharon Wuttke in honor of Patty & Elton Feffers 40th Wedding Anniversary.

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, Santana, Alex, Lily, Kaitlyn, Kynesha, Brandi's Grandma and Marilyn.

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