

We are happy to announce we have successfully met the Family Foundation \$30,000 Matching Grant. We have been working very hard distributing the matching grant funds to those that are in desperate need, removing their pain and suffering. The Time Is Now to Help and the many poverty stricken we have provided our caring assistance to say "Thank You" to all our supporters. We would never have been able to provide food, shelter, car repairs, utility assistance, home repairs and so much more without all of "You" and the Family Foundation matching funds. Our mission to remove the pains of poverty is dependent on your generous heartfelt donations. "You" make all our good works possible. In a few weeks we will share with you where every penny of this matching grant was spent to provide poverty relief. Thank you very much and God Bless "You" for Caring and Sharing.

Dear W.C.,

I'm writing to you in desperation. I live with my wife, mother in law and son. My wife is nearly blind and has been in a wheelchair since she was a child. My mother in law lives with us and used to be able to help but had a stroke last year. She is now completely blind and also in a wheelchair. I care for the two women and our child full-time. I had a job until my mother in law had her stroke but had to give it up to care for everyone. I have no one else to ask for help. My unemployment is over and we are living on my wife and mother in laws SSI. It is not enough to cover rent, utilities and food. I can only dream of the day we will be able to purchase a decent wheel chair and handicap accessible vehicle. Is there any assistance your organization could give to my family before we end up homeless on top of everything else?

Dear Readers,

I have received letters questioning if we direct people to the proper government assistance. Just because we do not mention it in every letter we share each week does not mean we are not counseling the recipients of our assistance to what is available to them from other sources. We always go over budgets and provide suggestions and ideas to make our clients lives more manageable. Most people do not realize there is often a lengthy wait for government assistance. Many of the people we help are unable to work due to disability or age. For those already receiving benefits any unexpected change in their circumstances or expenses will put them in danger of food and housing insecurity.

The man that wrote this letter was a very proud man. He loves his family with a devotion I don't always see. The full responsibility of the care of two wheel chair bound women and a young child was on this man's shoulders. He was very stressed and felt like he was not doing enough to provide for his family. Without any home health care assistance he was doing all the tasks necessary to keep two paralyzed women clean and sanitary. The constant care was taking a toll on his body as he shared with me his recent diagnosis of high blood pressure.

When I spoke to this man he shared with me the story of their struggle to live a normal life. The man had a job. He told me how he had never found love with women other than his wife. After years of dating he said one day he saw the woman in the wheel chair and went up to her to talk. He said to him she had an inner beauty he had seen or felt before. Even though

his family and friends discouraged him they continued to date. The man told me how his wife had been born disabled and only had 10% of her vision. Her mother had always cared for her even though she tried to be independent. When they made plans to marry the mother in law offered to move in with them so he could continue to work. The man said he grew to love his mother in law as if she was his own mother and the arrangement worked out perfect. After five years of marriage he said they were shocked to learn his wife was pregnant. The doctors did not even think she could get pregnant or carry a baby to full term. To everyone's surprise she did. Their baby was born healthy nine months later.

Eight years after his son's birth the mother in law suffered a debilitating stroke. She lost her vision and ability to walk. She has to be sponge bathed and wear an adult diaper. This care has all fallen on this man's shoulders, on top of caring for his wives many medical needs and caring for a eight year old son. The man told me how he had been able to save a little money when he was working but they had quickly gone through that. I asked if he had applied for food stamps and utility assistance. He said he had but just recently. I asked why he had not applied right away and he shared his shame over not being able to provide for his family. I asked the man, "Do you not care for your wife and mother in law with love each day? Who bathes these women, cooks for them and lifts them in and out of bed each day? Do you not do these things?" The man began to cry and shared with me his daily tasks. Most people would break under the stress and responsibility that fell on his shoulders alone. He wiped away his tears and said, "Yes I do. I still love my wife with all my heart. I still see her inner beauty every day. There is no other woman for me." I continued, "Well then you are providing for your family to the best of your abilities. You need to realize that your family needs more than what just you can provide right now. There are programs that will help compensate you for your home health care. This would give your family the help it needs going forward." The man did not know he could be compensated for his home health care. After I explained this further the man seemed to have a sense of relief wash over him.

Once we reviewed the family's budget and I gave further suggestions I could see if they received the home health care compensation and some assistance from all of us they would be able to survive going forward. To help meet their immediate needs we provided two months' rent, paid their utilities up to date to prevent an upcoming disconnection, and grocery gift cards. We also put them on our list waiting for a handicap accessible vehicle. This would eliminate the man's need to lift his wife and mother in law in and out of the car for medical visits and other daily needs. When I reviewed the assistance with the man he again began to cry. His tears became sobs and I could tell how much stress our assistance was going to remove. I made the husband promise to keep us posted on his progress with his benefits applications so they did not again risk becoming homeless and hungry.

Six weeks after our caring assistance I received a phone call from the man. He shared with me all the events over the past weeks. They were now receiving food stamps. He was also making progress on his in home health care compensation. I asked the man how his family was and he said, "They are doing much better now that I am not so stressed. I did not realize how my feelings were affecting those I love. Now I am more positive and not so stubborn that I can't ask for help. Even my blood pressure has come down. Thank you for all your help and direction. I don't know what would have happened to us if I had never written that

letter.” Sadly we all know what would have happened, but thanks to all of “You” we prevented a loving family from the stress and pain of homelessness and hunger. God Bless “You” for the help we provide together.

The Time is Now to Help has been chosen by the Lake Geneva Restaurant Week selection committee to participate in the 2016 Charity Check program - where the most voted non-profit will be the recipient of \$5,000 sponsored by Lake Geneva Country Meats. The 2016 Lake Geneva Restaurant Week event will take place June 3rd – June 12th, 2016. To learn more about this event please visit www.LakeGenevaRestaurantWeek.com. Be sure to start planning to attend this year’s event and vote for The Time Is Now to Help to be the charity that receives the \$5,000 Charity Check.

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, The Dan & Donna Casey Family Charitable Fund, Delavan United Methodist Church , St. Joseph’s Congregation Souper Bowl Fundraiser, Elkcast Aluminum, Elkhorn Chemical & Packaging, Eye Physicians & Surgeons, Richard & Linda Rossetti, Jeanne Allen, Dorothy Butek, The Don & Gerald & Joyce Byers, Karen Kayser, Robert & Mary Winter, John & Kathy Poiron, Kelly & Lori Carty, Sid & Patty Johnson, Robert & Patricia Davis, St. James United Methodist Church, Ivan & Ann Lindert, William Mangold, The Sowers House, Geraldine Hinton, Dorothy Tookey, Tim & Laura Kolnik, Aurora Health Care Employee Partnership Campaign, Gene Krauklis, Tom Wigton, Jeanne Mc Donald, Mary Cucchi, Heidi Hall, Shawna Kneipper, Lee & Betty Hayles, our anonymous donors 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: Bruce & Susan Suski in memory of their son-in-law Andy Piskator. In memory of Sally Johnson from her “Book Club”. Marcie Hollmann & Bob Nordhaus in memory of Vicki Swartz.

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, Kynasha, 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