

The Family Foundation \$30,000 Matching Grant is continuing to remove the pains of poverty and being put to great use. Next week we will share with you where every penny was spent helping our fellow creations that were in desperate need of our assistance. A big thank you to the Family Foundation and all of "You" for your generous support.

Thank you to Paul Ziegler for providing another matching grant opportunity to The Time Is Now to Help. We are pleased to announce the Ziegler \$15,000 Matching Grant will begin immediately. Paul did not want our mission to assist those in desperate need to lose momentum. He wants us to succeed at our goal of providing food, shelter, utilities, transportation assistance, toiletries and other necessities of life to even more of our fellow creations in 2016. He feels the sadness and pain of those reaching out to us for assistance. His heart aches for all the senior citizens, children, the handicapped, veterans and working poor families suffering in our communities. We are so grateful for the Ziegler \$15,000 Matching Grant opportunity because we know the difference this motivation will make in our charity efforts.

Dear W.C.,

I live with and care for my disabled sister. We are both senior citizens. We have been living without a refrigerator for the past two months. Since we both live on our social security it is impossible for us to ever save up enough money for a refrigerator. We can only buy canned food and it is not very healthy for us. We barely get by with paying the high winter utility bills, gas and repairs for the car to take my sister to all her doctors in Milwaukee, food and medications. I know it is an unusual thing to ask for but it would make two senior women very happy to have fresh cold food again.

Dear Readers,

It actually isn't that unusual to ask for a refrigerator. More people than you can imagine actually do live without one. Repairs can be too expensive for many senior citizens budgets and a new refrigerator is usually out of the question. That was the situation these two senior women found themselves in. When I paid my visit I found much more need than just the refrigerator.

I arrived at a small older home that looked like it was in need of some repairs. I noted the chipping paint and general lack of upkeep. As this was a senior woman caring for her sister with disabilities I was not surprised to find the home in this condition. How would this woman have the time or energy to keep up with this older home? I knocked on the door and in a moment it was opened by a senior woman. I introduced myself and after we spoke for a moment she invited me inside.

The house was in disrepair inside as well. I looked around and saw the woman made an effort to keep things tidy but everything was very old. The refrigerator was not the only thing that was not working in that house. I felt the obvious chill in the air as well and asked if her furnace was working. The woman said her furnace was indeed broken and could barely keep

up. The way it was functioning was causing her to have much higher utility bills than necessary.

After a walk through the home I met the sister. The woman introduced me to her sister that was both physically and mentally disabled. The woman said, "We've lived together since my parents passed away over thirty years ago. They left us this house. We know it's not much but it is all we have." The sister smiled and nodded in agreement. The woman said, "You stay here and enjoy your program on TV. I'm going to talk to the nice man in the kitchen." Again the sister nodded and smiled.

When we sat to talk in the kitchen the woman explained their situation in detail. She had worked until her parents had both passed within a few months of each other over thirty years ago. The woman said, "I think my Mom died of a broken heart once my dad passed. She made me promise to care for my sister always. I made that promise on her death bed and can never break it. I wouldn't want to anyway. We have our challenges but we are not just sisters, we are best friends." Once she moved into her parent's home and began caring for her sister around the clock she realized she would not be able to work any longer. The woman said, "I always remembered my promise to my mother and knew I had to just stay home and take care of my sister." I commended her for her devotion.

We went over their finances and I could see they would never be able to afford a new refrigerator on their own. They were also a little behind in their utilities and the only food in the house was canned soup, canned vegetables and canned fruit. I also found half a loaf of bread and some peanut butter. The woman commented that she had tried to still eat a balanced diet with the canned fruits and vegetables but there was not enough nutrition in what they were eating. They both were very thin so there was not enough calories either. I immediately called a volunteer to pick up some hot food as I was sure it had been quite some time since they had any. I asked when was the last time they had eaten a hot meal and the woman said, "We had burgers from the drive thru a few weeks ago." I was determined to correct their food insecurity as soon as possible. I looked at the old refrigerator and knew it was not worth repairing. We spoke about what kind of refrigerator she would like and what would fit in the space in her kitchen. I made a call to have a refrigerator ordered.

When I hung up the call for the refrigerator the woman was thanking me profusely. I could see she thought that was all the help she was going to get and yet she was extremely grateful for it. I told her I wasn't done with my assessment yet. She looked confused when I said this. I said, "There is still the matter of your household repairs, including your furnace, your overdue utilities, new mattresses and car repairs." The woman said, "I didn't ask you for help with those things. You've been much too generous already." I explained to her how we are not just a band aid. We want to make sure they can get by going forward without being in the depths of poverty again within a few months. I could see if all we did was provide a refrigerator they would still be struggling and probably would not even be able to afford fresh foods to put in it.

When I made a list of items to repair in the house, new mattresses, repairs to the car and what we would pay to their utility company the woman covered her face with her hands and I

could hear her sobbing. I said, “Don’t cry. The Time Is Now to Help has many supporters that want to help you. The people in your community do not want you living like this without heat and food. They want to help.” The woman tried to deny any further assistance but once I made her realize how this would help not just her but her sister as well she finally gave in.

After I said my goodbyes to the two women I got to work on the list of assistance needed. Volunteers were coordinated to do several repair jobs to the home and even do some cleaning. The furnace was looked at and deemed too far gone and old to repair. A new much more efficient furnace was installed and light bulbs were replaced with LED to not just brighten the home but drastically lower the utility bills. The new mattresses were delivered and made up with fresh sheets and blankets by a volunteer. The car was repaired and gas cards were provided to help with the drives to Milwaukee for medical care. Food was purchased and put in the new refrigerator and the empty cabinets were filled.

At my last visit to the two sisters I found a brighter, warmer home. The house was clean from its thorough scrubbing and the new beds were made. When I looked in the new refrigerator I commented on the delicious food I found inside. I said, “I didn’t even know you could cook when I saw all those canned foods.” The woman laughed and said, “I’m a great cook. All I needed was the food.” We both laughed together about her comment but I realized how sad but true it was. How many people actually are great cooks but do not have food to make for their families? How many people do not even have a kitchen to cook in because they are living in motels or homeless shelters or cars? That is what “We” do together every day. We remove the pains of poverty. The pains of hunger, cold, discomfort, fear of homelessness and utility disconnection are all removed thanks to “You”. Thank you and God Bless “You” for your support that makes all this possible.

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: Family Foundation, Paul Ziegler, Fox Charities, The Rhoades Foundation, Martin Business, Kunes' Country Ford-Lincoln of Delavan, The Dan & Donna Casey Family Charitable Fund, Burlly & Donna Brellenthin, The Gross Family, Vita Armato, Rita’s Wells Street Salon, Robert Anderlick, Silicon Valley Community Foundation,

Gerald & Joyce Byers, John & Kathy Poiron, Robert Ribordy, Bonnie Sanchis, Judy Dishneau, Dennis & Carol Frederick, Beth & Jody Rendall, John & Diane Schuchardt, Dorothy Tookey, Ernest & Dorothy Winters, Jack & Mary Lou McKinney, Josephine Carpentero, Robert & Shirley Lipinski, Jeanette Logterman, Gregory Swanson, JT Marty, Mike & Kim Olsen, Marlee Carlson, Alex Dahlstrom, Karin Collamore, William Davit, Margaret Guidarelli, Rhonda Lee Desautels, Elizabeth Layhew-Kyle, 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:Carla Matz in memory of Heidi Danner and Harry Bublitz.

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, Susan, Clarence, Ryan, Jayden, Santana, Alex, Lily, Kaitlyn, Kynesha, Brandi's Grandma, Corinne 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