

Dear W.C.,

My neighbors that live in our apartment building need your help. They are a woman in her thirties that cares for her elderly grandmother. The woman had an operation several years ago that left her incontinent. She also has other physical challenges that make it impossible for her to work. She lives with and cares for her 81 year old grandmother. I have observed how lovingly she cares for her grandmother and how they both struggle. I found my neighbor crying yesterday because she is in so much pain due to needing dental surgery. They just do not have the money for something so expensive. They live very frugally. It would be wonderful if The Time Is Now to Help could help this woman with the constant pain she is enduring. Thank you.

Dear Readers,

I contacted the neighbor to find out more details about this woman and her grandmother. The neighbor filled me in with the information I needed to confirm the validity of this letter. The neighbor said she had not told the woman she was writing a letter of request in their behalf. She said she would meet me at their apartment to help with the introductions and explanation.

I arrived at the low income apartment building. The neighbor was waiting for me by the front door. She was an elderly woman who greeted me with a hug. The woman was so happy I was there to check on her neighbors she could barely contain her enthusiasm for my visit. She smiled and grasped my hand as we introduced ourselves. She said, "I'm sorry. When I meet someone I like I am just a hugger." I assured her that no apologies were needed.

The senior woman led the way to her neighbor's apartment. Down the hallway she marched with even more enthusiasm. When she stopped outside of an apartment door I knew we had arrived at our destination. The woman took a breath before lifting her hand to knock. I could see she was a little apprehensive about bringing a stranger to her neighbor's door. I smiled and nodded my encouragement to knock.

The door was opened by the granddaughter. She did indeed look to be in her thirties. I could see her embarrassment as she looked at me and then the neighbor. The neighbor introduced me and began to tell her about The Time Is Now to Help. The woman looked confused as she was trying to take in everything the neighbor was saying. I also saw her wincing in pain and turning her face away as if trying to hide it. The woman then said, "I've heard about The Time Is Now to Help but I never even thought to write to you. Please come in." She invited us into the small apartment.

When I walked in I saw a senior woman sitting in a chair with a walker in front of her. She smiled at the neighbor and reached her hand out in greeting. The grandmother looked at me and said to the neighbor, "Who have you brought to visit us today?" The neighbor introduced me to the grandmother as she reached out for my hand in greeting as well.

The neighbor had told me on the phone that she did not want to concern the grandmother as she had some mild dementia and could become distressed if she knew her granddaughter was struggling at all. The neighbor said she would stay and talk to the grandmother while I discussed the financial affairs with the granddaughter.

The granddaughter still looked somewhat shocked I was there and she asked, "How does this work? I've read a few of your columns but my situation is probably different than most." I told her, "Every situation is different. The only commonality is that everyone I visit is in need of some kind of financial assistance, whether it is with rent or utilities, food or in your case dental surgery." The woman looked surprised that I knew exactly what she needed help with. She said, "I was wondering how you knew about this terrible pain I am in. I remember when I saw my neighbor in the laundry room last week I was crying and she was very concerned. I did not want my grandmother seeing the pain I was in so I went to do laundry down the hall."

I asked the woman if she had a budget and any other substantiating documents such as bank statements, bills, etc. The woman went to the kitchen cabinet and grabbed a box of documents. She set them on the table in front of me, excusing herself and rushing to the other room as she said, "Here is everything. You are welcome to look through them." I was a little confused about her quick departure but began to go through her documents, making notes. I saw in her bank statements the amounts being deposited for their assistance. I also saw the payments for rent, utilities and some medical bills. The woman came back shortly and apologized for her quick departure. I could see she was embarrassed but did not want to question her. Instead I questioned her about several of the bills and expenses.

The woman shared the surgery she had endured and her disabilities. I also asked about her dental problems as this was the main reason I had come to visit. I had noticed her flinching in pain several times during my visit. The woman told me she had not seen a dentist in years as it was a luxury and not something she could ever afford. The woman told me how she had not been able to eat properly for the past month as the pain seemed to grow daily. "It's getting very hard to hide it from my grandmother but I do not want to distress her. She would just worry about me." I made a call to one of our wonderful dentists to have her seen as soon as possible. While the woman was very grateful for the dentist appointment I could tell the woman wanted to tell me something else but may be having difficulty saying it. I asked her, "Is there something else you want to tell me?" Her face got red and she looked down as she said, "Due to my surgery I have become incontinent. I have to wear an adult diaper all the time. I am embarrassed to go out in public because I never know when it will happen, like it just did when you first got here. That is why I had to run to the bathroom." I reassured the woman she had nothing to be embarrassed about, "You certainly are not the first person we have provided assistance to that has incontinence. We have helped people of all ages that struggle with your condition." The woman looked relieved to have told me the full extent of her condition.

I asked about the grandmother and what care she provided. The granddaughter told me she provided all care for her grandmother, including managing her diabetes, bathing and incontinence care. The granddaughter said, "I love my grandmother with all my heart. She raised me when my mother died when I was six years old. She is all I have for family. We

have always done everything together. Now that she needs to be taken care of I am not going to leave her on her own. She needs me now just like I needed her when I was a kid.”

I asked about their food and toiletries. The woman shared their need for laundry detergent, wipes, body wash, toothpaste and shampoo. “There are months we just run a little short due to medical bills or other needs that come first. I do so much laundry and detergent is so expensive.” I asked to see the apartment. The woman gave me a quick tour of the small two bedroom apartment. I noticed the sagging old beds and tattered bedding. When the woman saw me looking at the sorry looking beds she again flushed in embarrassment. She explained, “Our bedding gets so worn out from the constant washing I have to do.” I asked about their uncomfortable looking beds and the woman told me how badly both she and her grandmother’s backs hurt most days. She confessed they had these same mattresses since she was a child when she grew up with her grandmother. I knew this woman and her grandmother would need new mattresses and bedding in addition to the dentist and toiletries.

After a thorough review of their budget and expenses I could see they could get by if we paid their rent one month ahead and provided the dental treatment, mattresses, toiletries and bedding. Just about the time we were finalizing our visit the neighbor walked over to speak to us. She said to the woman, “I hope The Time Is Now to Help was able to help you with your pain you’ve been suffering. I have been so upset ever since I saw you crying in the laundry room. I just couldn’t let you go through this alone.” The woman hugged her neighbor and began to cry. “You are the best neighbor anyone could ask you. Thank you for writing to ask for help for me. You and The Time Is Now to Help are God sends.” They both hugged each other for a few minutes before the neighbor said her goodbyes.

Once the neighbor left I went to speak to the grandmother before saying my own goodbyes. The woman said, “Grandma, this wonderful man said he is going to bring you a new bed, sheets and blankets. What do you think about that?” The grandmother got a big smile on her face and answered, “A new bed? I’ve never had a new bed in my whole life. And new blankets? It will be like a dream to sleep like that. Am I dreaming?” I reassured the grandmother she was not dreaming. I told both of the women about how all of “You” make many dreams come true for our fellow creations suffering in poverty. They both were filled with gratitude and appreciation for all the fulfilled dreams “You” make possible.

Several weeks later the woman is halfway through with the several dentists visits required for her dental care. Already the pain removed has changed her life. She now can eat, smile and speak without pain. The final appointments will give her the pain free life she has longed for. The grandmother was especially thrilled with the new beds provided. The granddaughter shared with me that her grandmother now slept through the night, something she hadn’t done in years. They also loved the new bedding, toiletries and even some food we had delivered for the two women. As the grandmother put it, “My dream did come true. Tell all those people who help you how much I love my new bed, pillow, sheets and blankets.” I am again sharing those words of gratitude with all of “You”. God Bless you for making this assistance possible.

Please let us continue to help our fellow creations. Every dollar you donate will be matched by the Fox Charities Miracles \$25,000 Matching Grant. Together we will continue to remove the pain and suffering of our fellow Americans.

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. Please plan on visiting the participating restaurants and please 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, Paul Ziegler, Family Foundation, The Rhoades Foundation, Martin Business, The Petco Foundation, Petco – Lake Geneva, Church of Jesus Christ LDS, Sid & Patty Johnson, Thomas Getzen, Marvin & Audrey Hersko, Anna Kiel, James & Marilyn Dyer, Beth & Jody Rendall, Jeffrey Ward, Saints Simeon & Anna Anglican Church, Walter & Florence Strumpf, Robert & Mary Winter, Dick & Jean Honeyager, David & Shirley Heigl, Michael & Kathe Beach, John & Carol Cobb, Mary Dunham, Michael & Sally Anne Chier, Shirley Abell, 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: Please pray for healing for the following people: Caroline, Susan, Clarence, Ryan, Jayden, Santana, Alex, Lily, Kaitlyn, Kynesha, Brandi's Grandma, Corinne and Marilyn.

Inspiration Ministries Resale Shop: Please donate your gently used household items and furniture to the Inspiration Ministries Resale Shop. For local pick up of major items or collection appointments please call (262) 275-2264. Inspiration Ministries Resale Shop is located at N2270 State Rd. 67, Walworth, WI 53184. New hours beginning June 1, 2016: Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays. Please visit often knowing your support will provide life changing assistance for the fellow creations in their care. For more information visit www.inspirationministries.org.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org