

Dear W.C.,

I'm writing to you to see if you can help my daughter and grandchild. She is in a very bad situation due to her husband's drug addiction. Our daughter has tried so hard to mend her marriage and get her husband the help he needs but he continues to use drugs and all their finances to obtain them. Over a year ago our son in law began using drugs. It started when he had an injury to his shoulder and he was using strong pain killers due to the pain he was in. Our daughter did not know he was abusing the medications until one day she found several empty pill bottles in the glove box of his car. This was months after he was supposed to no longer be taking them. When she confronted him about it he became angry. She discovered he had been taking much more than he was supposed to and when she asked him to stop taking them he was even worse. That night she came to sleep at our apartment with our grandson because her husband was acting so erratic. It only became worse as he turned to Heroin when he could no longer obtain pain killer prescriptions. This was a man that was involved in his church, volunteered at his son's school, had a great job and was at the top of his college class. This is the last thing I would ever expect to happen to him. Our daughter does not know what to do. She has called the police on him but there was not much they could do. He has now lost his job. By the time our daughter found out all the details of this secret he was hiding he had already emptied their savings and checking accounts. Our daughter works but does not make enough to pay off their debts and make a fresh start. Is there any way The Time is Now to Help could help our daughter and grandson?

Dear Readers,

I have said many times that The Time Is Now to Help is not equipped to help people dealing with addictions. We do not have counselors or the training to give our fellow creations the help they need to overcome these powerful addictions. We do however help the loved ones and innocent children that have been affected by those caught in the throes of an addiction. While this letter written by a worried parent did not provide many details of the assistance needed for this woman and child, I thought it would be good to look into this situation further.

I called the parent that had written this letter to find out more information. When I called the phone was answered by the mother that had written the letter. She was very happy to talk with me about her daughter's situation and grateful I had taken the time to call. We discussed the present living arrangements for the daughter and grandchild. The woman told me her daughter and grandson stayed with her once or twice a week but due to their living in a senior housing complex they were not allowed to live there full-time. She also told me they lived in a one bedroom apartment and with her daughter and grandson there it was very cramped for everyone. The woman said, "Right now she is living in her home with her husband. She does not have any money to get her own apartment yet. Her utilities are disconnected and their home is foreclosed on. Her husband is still using heroin so she has put new locks on her room to lock herself and our grandson in at night. It is a very scary situation right now." It sounded like it was indeed a very scary situation that we needed to help this mother and child out of.

After speaking with the woman for some time I set up a time to meet with them and their daughter at the parent's apartment. The following day I arrived to find them all at the small apartment. The daughter, her parents and an eight year old boy all squeezed in on the couch and they gave me what looked to be the only other chair in the apartment. The grandparents asked the boy if he would like to watch some TV in their room. He was more than happy to accommodate his grandparent's wishes. The adults all sat to talk without worrying about overwhelming the child with stress over his father's addiction and their financial difficulties.

The daughter had brought over her bank statements and bills as I had requested. I looked through these and saw the withdrawals and sometimes negative balance brought on by the husband's removal of their funds. The wife told me how she had been saving funds in the savings account for a vacation and to have emergency funds available. Those were all gone along with the funds needed to pay their mortgage and utilities. The daughter told me how her husband had been changing but she never suspected a drug addiction. She thought he was in pain yet from his shoulder and her husband had sometimes complained about the amount of stress he was in at work. The woman told me how she had been physically sick when she had found all the empty prescription bottles and even drug paraphernalia in her husband's car. The woman said, "If my husband could become as addicted as he is now, let his whole life and everything he loved go, this can happen to anyone." I told the parents and daughter how many times I have helped families affected by drug addictions. It is a huge problem in our country and not just in inner cities or poverty stricken areas. I have been seeing it in families just like theirs, well adjusted loving families, for many years.

After reviewing all her outstanding bills, discussing her job and income we worked out a plan for her and the son. I felt the mother and child truly needed to get out of the home they were sharing with the addicted husband as his behavior had been becoming more and more erratic as he fell further and further into his addiction. I knew of a small one bedroom apartment that was very reasonable and most importantly was available immediately to get them out of their dangerous living situation. When I discussed this with the woman and her parents they were all very excited to have her make this move. The woman told me she would like to pack up as much of her belongings as she could, at least the ones her husband hadn't ruined or sold. She told me she would call when she was ready to leave her home, when her husband was not home to cause a scene for their child to see.

Two days later the woman called and said she was ready to go. Her parents had helped her load her belongings in her car and theirs. The husband had not even noticed as she packed up her dishes, pans, and toiletries. Her son's toys had been packed in several boxes and put in his closet along with his suitcase of clothing. I looked around what had once been a nice family home but now showed signs of neglect and abuse, holes in the walls that the woman told me were from her husband's angry fists and burn marks on the counters and walls from her husband's drugs and cooking mishaps. As the woman looked around the house one last time I saw her wiping away her tears. She said, "I had so many hopes and dreams for our family when we bought this house. I had wished for more children and a happy marriage. Now it is just an empty dirty shell with bad memories." She stifled a sob when she saw her son watching and forced a smile on her face. I told her, "It's time to make new happy memories with your son in your new life." As I left I placed a packet on the kitchen

countertop that contained a letter to the husband and referrals to a drug treatment program. It was now up to him to help himself as his wife and son were now moving on to a healthier lifestyle thanks to all of "You".

After our assistance this woman and her son were able to move on without the constant strain and worry of living with a addict. They now had an apartment with utilities. They now have food in their refrigerator. "We" provided new beds and several pieces of furniture for their apartment. "We" had her car repaired and also put new tires on to insure safe transportation to and from work. "We" provided first month's rent and security deposit to ensure they were safely out of the empty foreclosed home. They were able to live independently in their small apartment. When I called the woman to check in on them she sounded much happier. The woman said, "My husband left me a voicemail saying he looked at the packet of information you left him. He said he will look into the drug rehabilitation center you suggested. I know it is too late for our marriage to be saved but I do thank you for at least trying to save his life. Hopefully one day he will be able to thank you. I will not talk to him again until he has checked himself into one. I am focusing my life around my son now. We no longer have to lock ourselves in our room and put on a radio to drown out the sounds my husband made while using drugs. We are finding happiness again. We are going to church again. I can never thank The Time is Now to Help enough for everything you have done for us." I reminded her it was thanks to all of "You" that we are able to provide this assistance.

God Bless you for your compassion and caring and sharing for God's creations.

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, Clarence & Marilyn Schawk Family Foundation, Martin Business, Thelma Meyer, Delavan Service League, Margarie Egger, Elkcast Aluminum, Elkhorn Lions Club, East Troy Lioness Club, Steve Fejes Insurance Agency, Judy Dishneau, David & Shirley Heigl, Roland & Diane Marie Shroeder, Walter & Florence Strumpf, James & Marilyn Dyer, Beth & Jody Rendall, Gerald & Marilyn Wilkin, Sid & Patty Johnson, Dorothy Tookey, Diane Schuchardt, William Lano, Steve & Denise Hubbard, 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.

Honoraries: Mike & Natalie Reno in honor of Mike Reno's 26th Birthday.

Prayer Chain: Please pray for healing for the following people: Mike, Caroline, Susan, Clarence, Ryan, Jayden, Santina, Alex, Lily, Kaitlyn, Kynesha, Brandi's Grandma, Marilyn, Sal, Corinne.

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: Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays. Please visit often knowing your support will provide life changing assistance for the fellow creations in their care. Inspiration Ministries is home for up to 80 residents that live with multiple physical and mental challenges. I thank all of you for helping. For more information visit www.inspirationministries.org.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org