

Dear W.C.,

I am a senior citizen living with my daughter and her three children. They are all sleeping in my one bedroom apartment. It is very crowded and disruptive. My health is poor due to heart problems and kidney disease. I live on my social security which isn't much to get by on. I can't risk losing my senior housing. I had to take my daughter in to prevent them from becoming homeless but this is very hard on my health. My daughter helps where she can. She drives me to my doctor's appointments and for groceries. Her car is breaking down all the time and she does not have money for both first month's rent and a security deposit to move out. It would help me so much if you could help her get on her feet and move out of my apartment.

Dear Readers,

I went to visit the senior woman at the address listed on her letter. The senior housing apartments are usually fairly quiet when I visit but this time I could hear the noise coming down the hall to her apartment. I could hear children shouting and running around. I could not fault the children for being children; they just are not supposed to be living in senior housing complexes. I could imagine there had already been complaints filed by other residents. I also could imagine how disruptive living with three children in a one bedroom apartment was to a senior citizen that is living with health conditions.

I knocked on the door and again heard excited shouting and feet running to the door. The door burst open with three children and a somewhat disheveled looking senior citizen trailing behind. The woman scolded the children saying, "I told you kids not to answer the door without an adult." The children all looked chastened and answered, "Sorry Grandma." The woman then turned to me saying, "Sorry for the greeting. How can I help you?" As she said this I saw she recognized who I was. She then smiled and said, "Come in. Come in."

The senior woman invited me into the small cramped apartment. I could easily see it would be fine for one woman but the addition of the three children, sleeping bags rolled up against the wall and clothing piled in the only chairs made it very cluttered and claustrophobic. After introducing ourselves I asked the senior woman where her daughter was. The woman told me her daughter was at work, a job she desperately needed to keep. I asked if we could sit down to talk and she said spread her hands to the chaos all over her furniture. The children were back to their playing and entertaining themselves. The senior woman said, "Let's sit in the kitchen. I have a small table in there."

The senior woman led me around the corner to a small galley kitchen that had a folding tray and two small chairs. The woman said, "When it was just me living here I hardly ever used this table but now it is the only place I have to sit." We sat on the uncomfortable metal folding chairs to talk.

The senior woman filled in more of the details not listed in her letter. She told me that her daughter was divorced and had become ill over the winter. The daughter had to take a leave of absence from her job and used up all her vacation days, sick days and unemployment. By

the time she was able to go back to work she had lost her apartment and sold all her furniture. The senior woman told me, "She had done everything she could to help herself and the children. I took care of the children at her apartment when she was so sick. Her ex-husband has not paid child support in years and is nowhere to be found. I am the only person that can help her but now my own health is failing."

I asked more of the details of the daughter's finances and job. The senior woman told me her daughter had given her permission to speak in her behalf due to the long hours she worked. After looking over the financial information and the details from the senior woman I could see the daughter would be able to pay rent and other expenses going forward. She just was not capable of paying the expensive car repairs and for first month's rent and security deposit. The senior woman said, "You are our only hope. My neighbors have all complained to me about the noise and they are going to go to management next. I love my grandchildren but they are just a handful and don't understand Grandma doesn't feel good and either does most my neighbors." I could see the lines of fatigue and shadows under her eyes. As if on cue the children all began shouting and bouncing up and down in the living room. The grandmother slowly rose from her chair and I again heard her scolding the children. They quieted down again but I knew it wasn't fair to them either to spend their days in one room together without any outlet for running and playing.

When the grandmother returned she apologized for the disturbance. I reassured her that I understood the children were probably feeling distressed over losing their home, their rooms, their belongings and moving into their grandmothers small apartment. The grandmother reached over and grasped my hand with tears in her eyes saying, "Even if you can't help us, God Bless you for understanding." I squeezed her hand in reply saying, "We will help you. I can see your daughter is trying hard and just needs a hand up. You need to have your own space again so you can take care of yourself too."

In between several more interruptions to correct the children we were able to put together a plan to help the daughter move out with the children. The daughter already had an apartment picked out that was very reasonable. Hopefully it was still available so we could provide the security deposit and rent. I called the landlord and told them we would be providing the security deposit and first month's rent. I assured the landlord the woman would be able to pay her rent going forward. We also arranged for some used furniture and household necessities as the daughter had sold or given away everything when she moved into her mother's small apartment. Once they were ready to move in the furniture and new beds would be delivered. Once we were finished with these details I told the senior woman I would come back to meet the daughter and assess the car when she was home. We agreed the sooner the better. I planned on returning the following evening.

The next evening I met the daughter in the parking lot by her car. After the daughter greeted me with a tearful hug filled with appreciation she showed me the car. The car was in pretty bad shape and had high miles so I had a feeling our team of mechanics would probably advise it being too expensive to repair. I hoped it would pass safety inspection as we are always short on good running donated cars. After speaking to the daughter for a while outside about her ex-husband and her health problems, things we did not want to discuss in

front of the children, we talked about the apartment. I told the daughter I had my concerns about her mother's health and how she needed more rest and less stress. I advised she move into her apartment as soon as possible. The daughter said, "I hope to be moving in this weekend. We only have our personal belongings to move as I gave away or sold everything I own. I cannot tell you how grateful I am for your help with the beds, furniture and even the sheets, dishes and towels. I did not know how I was going to do all this on my own." She was crying grateful tears as she said, "Can I give you a hug? I don't know how else to thank you." I told her about all of "You" and how our mission to remove the pains of poverty is all possible because of your generosity. As she hugged me she said, "Well then you share this hug with all those wonderful people." I promised her I would. It is being shared with all of "You" every day we help a fellow creation together.

The next day the daughter drove her car to the mechanics for its inspection and we were both amazed it would be fixable. She would definitely need a car before the winter but it would be able to get her through until then. The repairs would be completed to keep it running reliably. The daughter called right after I spoke to the mechanics. She was again full of gratitude and she was so excited her car could be fixed. The daughter said, "This car means so much to our independence. It also is so important in my Mom's health care and my own. She was so distressed the last time we broke down on the way to her doctor's appointment. I barely had enough money on me to call a cab and then she was late for her appointment. I can't afford to miss any more work either. This car is vital to our wellbeing." I knew she spoke the truth in this. That is why I added their names to my list of people waiting for good running donated cars. When one became available that I thought would be suitable for her and the children she would be reassessed for need at the time. For now I knew thanks to all of "You" these two lovely women and three children would be much better off thanks to The Time Is Now to Help.

When I checked in on the senior woman several weeks later I found a much more relaxed woman. Her apartment was now orderly and quiet. The grandmother told me she still helps with the children but now she waits for her daughter to pick her up and take her to her apartment. That way there is no worry about noise or mess at her apartment. The daughter was continuing to do well at her job and able to pay her rent, utilities, food and gas on her own. I gave the grandmother some gift cards to take the children clothes, shoes, school supply and toy shopping with. The grandmother was so grateful and excited to take them on their shopping trip. She said, "You tell those wonderful people that support The Time Is Now to Help thank you for helping my daughter and grandchildren. They are my only family and are my whole world. You made them so happy and that is all that matters to me. God Bless you all."

So I tell all of "You", 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, Margarie Egger, Elkcast Aluminum, Patricia Jankowski, John & Marian McClellan, Michael & Kathe Beach, Sid & Patty Johnson, Cynthia Gardner, Charles & Donna Corson, Albert & Ellen Burnell, 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: Andrea Olson in memory of “cuz” Marty Hansen. Robert & Mary Ann Zelenski in memory of Bob Uhen and Lucille Feider. Les & Pauline Malsch in memory of Rita Leahy and in memory of their son Mark.

Honoraries: Mike & Natalie Reno in honor of Mike Reno’s 26th Birthday. Les & Pauline Malsch in honor of Al & Jerri Hinton.

Prayer Chain: Please pray for healing for the following people: Mike, Caroline, Susan, Clarence, Ryan, Jayden, Santana, 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