

Dear W.C.,

I am a senior citizen that desperately needs her teeth fixed. I have used every penny I had left in my retirement savings to get what teeth I could repaired. I still have over a thousand dollars in work to be done and it might as well be a million. I live on my social security in senior housing but I still am struggling to pay my utilities and rent since I used that money for a car repair. I am 79 years young, I still drive and I am usually the one in my apartment building helping others that need rides to doctor's appointments or for groceries. Now I need help financially but there is no one that can help me. My neighbor told me about The Time Is Now to Help and encouraged me to write you this letter. I hope you can help me so I can stop living in pain.

Dear Readers,

When I founded The Time Is Now to Help decades ago I found many senior citizens living in desperate poverty. It was amazing to me that in our beautiful country I found our elderly living in homeless shelters or on park benches. I found them hungry and alone. What amazes me still is that after all these years I continue to find our senior citizens struggling to survive, still living in desperate poverty.

I went to visit this senior woman to check on her living conditions. I came prepared with a bag of food and some basic toiletries. These are always needed and appreciated. I rang the buzzer to her apartment and waited for her to answer. When she answered I heard her confusion as she asked through the speaker, "Who is this?" When I explained who I was she replied, "Oh my. I didn't expect you today but come on up." With that the door buzzed and I entered the apartment building. I went up the stairs following the directions she had given me. When I looked down the hall I saw a woman waving and went to introduce myself.

After I showed the woman my identification and we shook hands the woman invited me inside her apartment. I looked around the small apartment that was very comfortable and tidy. The woman tried to apologize for what she thought was a mess but in reality was just some bills on the table and a dish on the counter. I smiled at the woman and asked, "What mess?" She began to smile but covered her mouth with her hand. I've seen this behavior before in people that are embarrassed about their teeth. They will do anything to keep from smiling. I saw this as the perfect opportunity to ask about her teeth. The woman looked very self-conscious as she told me how she had only been able to pay for having the few bad teeth removed. She still needed a root canal and a partial denture so she could eat comfortably and smile once again. I asked to see her missing teeth. She very shyly opened her mouth and showed me the work that needed to be done. I could see teeth missing in the front. She showed me the dentist bills she had paid and her bank account statements showing the withdrawals that emptied her savings account. She did not have money to pay for her past months rent, much less the remaining dental work. The woman also showed me the car repair bill that detailed the work that had been completed on her car. I noticed at the bottom of the statement a list of recommended work that would be needed on her car in the near future. I asked the woman about this and she said she had only been able to have fixed what would keep her car running for now.

Just then I remembered the bag of food and items I had brought and offered them to the woman. I could see the hunger in her face as she opened the bag and smelled the still warm food. I told her to help herself to what I had brought. She looked hesitant but I encouraged her to eat. I watched as she tried to eat comfortably with her bad teeth. She self consciously covered her mouth with her hand and winced while she chewed. She asked me several times if I would like some but I declined, knowing she would enjoy the leftovers again later. I also noted the tears in her eyes as she opened the other bag I had brought that contained toilet paper, tissues, floss, a tooth brush and tooth paste. The woman said, "How did you know I needed these things?" I answered, "I have been helping many senior citizens for many years now. I know what things are needed most." The woman answered, "You are a saint." To which I answered, "I am not a saint. There are many people that help me bring you our assistance today." While she continued to eat I explained to her how The Time Is Now to Help is supported by all of "You" and how your donations are used 100% to improve the lives of people just like her. She smiled and nodded as I told her this and she replied, "Well all those people are saints too because just bringing me these two bags of food and toiletries has helped me so much today. It is so scary to not know where your next meal will come from or to stand in line at a food pantry at my age. It is also embarrassing to run out of something as simple as toilet paper or toothpaste and not have the money to purchase them. It is frightening to have to choose between removing the terrible pain in my mouth and paying my rent. Your donors probably do not know these things so please tell them how much this means to this poor old woman." She got tears in her eyes as I reached out for her hand and said, "You are not old. You are just struggling like so many other people in our community. We will help you get healthy and get back on your feet."

While she finished eating I looked through her cabinets and refrigerator. I made notes on the lack of food I found. I questioned the woman if she would like a volunteer to pick up food or if she would like to shop for what she likes. The woman said she still was a good driver and would enjoy shopping for her own food. I gave her several gift cards for local stores so she could do her own shopping. I also gave her a gift card for gas for her car. The woman was extremely grateful for these gift cards. She began thanking me for all our help but I stopped her asking, "Did you think that was all we were helping you with?" The woman looked confused so I added, "We will be helping you get back on your feet again and this would not be enough assistance to do that. We will be paying your overdue rent and utilities too." The senior woman began to cry now so I reached in the bag of toiletries I had brought and handed her the box of tissues saying, "Now you know why I brought tissues." This made her smile and again I saw her reach to cover her missing teeth. I could not leave our fellow creation still struggling with missing teeth. I said, "I have a dentist I can send you to that will fix those teeth. He will make sure you can smile next time I see you." The woman tried to decline this saying we had done too much for her already. I asked her if she still was in pain with her mouth. The senior woman nodded her head in affirmation. I asked her, "Would we have removed all your pains of poverty if we just provided you with groceries and gas for your car? You would still be struggling with the pain in your mouth and worrying about eviction. We are here to help you as much as we can to remove your pains of poverty. My evaluation shows you still need more help for us to achieve that."

The senior woman, now in tears, said, "But I do not want to use up all your donations on just me. Other people need your help too." I assured her we would help them when it was their time too, that somehow God would provide. I added, "Right now God has led us to you. I need to do all I can for you to ensure you are living comfortably before we move on to help the next person in need."

After we said our tearful goodbyes I got right to work on making the arrangements for her life changing assistance. A dentist was consulted and an appointment was made, her car was scheduled for service, rent and utility checks were delivered. Six weeks later I again surprised the senior woman with a spontaneous visit. This time I found her helping her neighbor up to her apartment with bags of groceries. I took the groceries from the woman and the woman we provided our caring assistance smiled a beautiful smile that she no longer hid with her hand. She took me out to her car and showed me her new tires and how good it now started. She showed me her spotless apartment and proudly opened her refrigerator door that contained just the right amount of healthy food for a senior woman. The woman then gave me a big hug and began to cry. I let her finish her tears before saying, "I told you I have been doing this a long time and I knew we had to make those changes for you in order for you to live your life free from the pains of poverty." The woman nodded her head in agreement and said, "You were right. I would have gone right back to struggling once you left the first time. It is so good to wake up each morning without the pain in my mouth and the worry over how I will pay my bills. Please let those people that donate know how much this means to a young old woman like me. I know how everyone you help must feel now. It is good to be alive again. God Bless you and everyone at The Time Is Now to Help."

My Dear Friends, together we continue to remove the pain and suffering of poverty for our good fellow creations that need and deserve our help. I cannot do this alone. It takes all of us together. Every penny you give is used to help the poverty stricken. Thank you, thank you for your support in helping our fellow Americans in desperate need. 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: Kunes Country Auto Group, Gregg Kunes, The Harold & Bernice DeWeerd Family Foundation, Martin Business, Elkcast Aluminum, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Alan Cornue, Cornerstone Shop, Chavez for Charity, Michael Glass, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Janke, Robert Ribordy, Michael Ukropin, Faye Witt, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Walter & Florence Strumpf, Jeanne Allen, Judith McKillop, James Zakos, Shari & James Loback, William Antti, Jeanette Logterman, Jerome & Susan Kuta, Rita's Wells Street Salon, Carolyn May Essel, Ernest & Dorothy Winters, Alliant Energy Foundation, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schuberth, 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: Owen & Jeanne Widmayer in memory of Constance Mangion & Thomas Leahy. In memory of Dorothy "Dotsy" Heffernan from her friends Jud & Anita Munger, Robyn Adair and Cecilia Coons.

Prayer Chain: Please pray for healing for the following people: Mike, Caroline, Susan, Jennifer, 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