

Dear W.C.,

Can you please help one of the tenants at an apartment building I manage? She is a senior citizen and has no other family. Her husband died over five years ago after a very lengthy illness wiped out all their finances. That is when she moved here after losing the house they owned. She only lives on her social security. She has had some recent changes to her own health and now requires a walker. I recently stopped by to check on her and to see if she is having trouble paying her rent since she is over a month late in paying. She told me she would pay her rent with her next social security payment but that is still two weeks away and I know it will not even cover last month's rent she still owes along with utilities, food and other expenses. I bring her food when I can. I do not have the money to help her financially because I am a single mother and just make enough for my daughter and I to get by. But I would not mind helping her with errands or a little help around the apartment. She has always been special to me ever since we first met five years ago. She has confided in me how hard her life has been and she has endured much pain over the years. Could you please check on this sweet woman?

Dear Readers,

I called the woman that wrote the letter requesting our help to find out some more details. She provided the woman's full name and address so we could do a thorough investigation into the situation. Once we looked into the senior woman's situation we knew she needed The Time is Now to Help.

I arrived at the apartment building and was met by the woman that wrote the letter requesting our assistance. The woman volunteered to go with me to the apartment and make the introductions. She also offered to stay for the interview if the senior woman would feel more comfortable with her there. We talked about the woman as we made our way to the apartment together. I could tell the woman was nervous as she took a breath and knocked on the apartment door. We both listened as we heard the scrape of a walker making its way to the door. As there was a hesitation the woman called out, "It is "me". I am here with a friend to check on how you are doing." There was another hesitation before she unlocked the door.

After the apartment manager introduced me she asked if we could all sit down to talk. Once we were all sitting at the tiny kitchen table she began to tell her friend about The Time is Now to Help. The senior woman listened intently and said, "That is so nice. I never heard of such an organization before. How wonderful for those people they help." She still did not know that I was the founder of The Time is Now. When the apartment manager told her I was the founder of The Time is Now to Help and that I was there to check on her she asked, "But I did not write you a letter asking for help. How did you know I needed help?" I smiled over at the apartment manager and the senior woman asked her, "Did you do this for me?" I watched the senior woman's face crumple into tears as it dawned on her that we were there to bring her assistance.

After the apartment manager calmed her down the senior woman asked, "But how did you know I needed help? I never told you." The woman answered, "You did not have to tell me. I

know you would pay your rent if you were able to. I knew you must be in trouble financially if you were not paying your rent.” The senior woman continued to cry and hang her head. We reassured her that there was nothing to be ashamed of. I told her how “We” all work together to alleviate poverty in our community. I told her about the many other senior citizens helped these past few months that for many different reasons needed our help to get back on their feet. She listened and wiped away her tears now knowing she was not the only one going through this financial struggle at this stage in her life. She was no longer embarrassed and seemed ready to accept our helping hand.

I told her the different items I would need to look at in order to figure out our financial plan. The apartment manager helped her collect these items as she was having difficulty walking. Before going through the bank statements, check book and outstanding bills the woman shared with me some history about how she came to this point in her life. She and her husband had worked most their lives. They had owned a home but the senior woman had lost it right after her husband had died from Alzheimer’s. The senior woman told me about the many difficult years of caring for her husband and then having to put him in a home for the last year of his life when she could no longer control him. The woman said, “There were times he did not know who I was and would not let me tell him what to do. He would walk out of the house and get lost.” The senior woman told me how she had used every last dollar to keep her husband in the home when Medicare would no longer pay. She knew she could not afford the home nor care for him at their house. That was when she tried to sell the home but ended up losing it before she could sell it. The senior woman told me how she had sold most their belongings just to pay the bills and for the care home her husband was living in. After her husband died she had nothing left.

I found the reason for her recent financial difficulties was due to car repairs. The woman needed her car to drive to her doctor’s appointments and therapy. When it broke down she had attempted to have it repaired but after many expensive payments she realized it was beyond repair. This left her with a shortfall for two months rent and her utility bills. The woman decided she no longer needed a car and would try using the senior transportation going forward. Without the expense of a car she would be able to make her budget going forward. “We” would pay her overdue rent and utilities to bring her up to date. “We” also helped her with a much needed dentist appointment when I noticed the pain she was in. The senior woman seemed most grateful for this as I saw the look of relief on her face when she said, “I could never afford to go to the dentist. I cannot even sleep with the constant pain I am in.” I know “We” would not want one of our fellow creations living in not only the pains of poverty but also the physical pain of poor dental health.

I asked the senior woman about the apartment manager and their relationship. The senior woman was happy to tell me about their friendship. She shared with me how the woman had helped her apply for assistance and helped her unpack her few boxes when she moved in. She told me how when she had broken her ankle last winter the woman had driven her to therapy and dropped off food. I watched as she looked at the woman with genuine warmth and said, “I really don’t know how I would have gotten through the last few months without you. And now you bring me even more help through The Time is Now to Help. I was so

blessed the day God brought you into my life.” I watched this touching moment with my own tears in my eyes.

After going over all the bills and expenses I asked the senior woman if I could take a look at her kitchen. I could see she was surprised by the question but she gave me the green light. I looked through the refrigerator and cupboards and took notes on what I found. Thanks to the apartment manager kindly dropping off food several times a week I found a few plates covered with foil in the refrigerator. I also found some easy to prepare canned goods and canned fruits. The freezer contained a few microwave meals and frozen fruits and vegetables. It was good to see she was not having a food emergency like so many of our clients. But I also knew this was due to the apartment manager’s generosity and her sharing what she earned as a single mother. I asked the apartment manager if she would like to hold onto several grocery store gift cards for the senior woman to use when she shopped for her. She looked relieved as she took these and said, “I knew if I did not drop off food she would probably not have any. But it has been a real struggle with our already tight food budget.”

I asked about their remaining family and the senior woman informed me there was no remaining family they could count on. They had lost contact with their only child, a son, years before due to his alcohol addictions. I asked when the last time they had reached out to each other was and the woman said, “It was before my husband died, over six years ago. He was too drunk to come say goodbye or attend his own father’s funeral.” I could see this was a painful conversation so I did not continue with it. You can only do so much to help a person with addictions unless they are ready to help themselves. When I said this to the senior woman she agreed whole heartedly with me.

After our initial visit I returned several weeks later to check on how she felt after her first dentist visit. This time I found a woman that smiled, something I had not seen the first time I visited. I also was filled in on the many changes in her life and the relief of her financial stress caused by the many late notices that had filled her mailbox in the past. She proudly showed me her refrigerator with her favorite foods, all prepared so kindly by her friend and apartment manager. She also shared how she even had brought over her young daughter several times and now they were friends too. I could see the life changing assistance we had provided had brought about the change I love to see in our fellow creations. And this is thanks to all of “You”. God Bless.

My dear friends, for several weeks now we have been praying for help. The requests for those that desperately need help have mounted and our funds have been low. With a heartfelt commitment for what we do to remove the pains of poverty we continue to pray. Then we were contacted by two of our devout supporters with matching grant opportunities and now with our continued prayers we are counting on all of you to once again help us do God’s work to help our fellow creations.

Please donate to our new Barnabas \$50,000 Matching Grant. Your funds are desperately needed to provide the poverty stricken senior citizens, the handicapped, working poor families, children and veterans in our communities with shelter assistance, utility assistance, transportation assistance, food, toiletries and the many other daily necessities. Every dollar of

your donation will be matched by the Barnabas \$50,000 Matching Grant doubling your donation and the poverty relief you provide. 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, The Dan & Donna Casey Family Charitable Fund, James & Lynne Newman Foundation, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Peck & Weis Heating & Cooling, Violet De Wind, Barbara Kufalk, Phyllis Zelenski, Gerald & Jeanne Barr, Dick & Jean Honeyager, John & Diane Molumby, Marilyn Carver, Elkhorn Chemical & Packaging, Dale & Gail Folkers, Jeanne Allen, Ron & Karen Teliszczak, Carolyn May Essel, Sandra Chinn, 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:** The following donations were given in memory of Tom Spiegelhoff: Patricia Sandstrom, R. Scott & Marilee Hoffman, Richard & Mary Lou Huelskamp, Jackson Parker, Roger Schuler.

**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](http://www.inspirationministries.org).

Please visit: [www.timeisnowtohelp.org](http://www.timeisnowtohelp.org)