

Dear W.C.,

I never thought I would be a person writing to The Time Is Now to Help for help. Then my whole world fell apart. Eighteen months ago I survived an aneurysm that left me disabled. I had surgery that saved my life but it was a very long recovery. I still have speech and other deficits. During the time I was hospitalized and going through rehab my husband was not supportive. He decided it was a good time to get a girlfriend, drink and not pay the bills. We have since divorced but he has not paid his child support due to losing his job. He stopped paying the mortgage and I found out our home was foreclosed on. We are about to become homeless as we have nowhere else to go. I do not have enough money for a security deposit and first month's rent. We were already behind when they finally approved my disability payments. I am trying to keep our utilities connected and buy food. If my two children and I could get into an affordable rental it would relieve so much stress and worry from my life.

Dear Readers,

We all know the affect stress can have on a healthy person. It is even harder on a person struggling to heal after surgery, accident or a traumatic event such as an aneurysm. It was amazing to me this woman could even make the progress she had with the stress of a foreclosure, divorce and financial worries while she was trying to regain speech and motor skills. I wanted to meet this strong woman to assess her situation in person. Sometimes our fellow creations need to be reminded just how tough they are and they need the encouragement to continue to fight their difficulties.

I arrived at the woman's home that was in foreclosure. I could see at one time it may have been a nice home but now it was in need of some minor repairs. Peeling paint and leaking gutters were just a few of the things I noticed. As we were not there to save this home for this woman and children it would not be added to my list of assistance. We were there to get this disabled woman and children into an apartment they could afford and be self-sufficient going forward. I knocked on the door and it was soon answered by a boy that looked to be about 12 years old. I asked to speak to his mother and in a moment a woman walking slowly with a cane came to the door. I introduced myself and showed my identification. The boy shook my hand and they both invited me inside. I then was introduced to her 14 year old daughter who was in the process of doing dishes.

The woman and children all seemed somewhat uncomfortable so I tried to put them at ease. We talked about school and other things of interest to the children. Once they seemed more at ease the mother and I moved our conversation to the dining room where we could speak more freely. I did not know how much the children knew about their financial situation and did not want to talk about their father in front of them. The woman sat down with a sigh and I could see she was fatigued. I asked about her disabilities and medical condition. She shared her long treatment and recovery from her aneurysm and surgery. It caused some loss of speech, memory and motor skills that she had been working hard to regain. The woman said, "I had a bad headache, the worst I've ever had. I drove myself with the children to the emergency room because my husband wasn't even home. Next thing I know I am waking up from surgery. I don't remember much else of what happened or the first few weeks after. I

guess they finally found my husband and he came to pick up the kids. He didn't visit me much from what the nurses and my mother told me. When I finally started noticing things again I realized he didn't come at all. My Mom helped some by bringing the kids to visit and helped care for them but she has her own health and financial difficulties. When my husband finally showed up he had been drinking. Arguing and stress was not what I needed then, I needed my husband to be there to help me. I realized right then how selfish he was and how he always had been. He actually laughed and showed me a picture of his girlfriend while I was still lying in my hospital bed." I watched as the woman quickly wiped away a tear and said, "I refuse to cry over that man one more day of my life. I have moved on and am glad to no longer have him and his negative energy bringing me down. I learned from this experience that I will cherish every day I am alive. I just wish for the children that he would step up and be a dad. I can't believe he does not care that his own children could be homeless or going hungry."

I asked the woman about their divorce settlement and child support. The only thing the woman received was the furniture and from what I could see there was not much there. The woman told me how her ex-husband had actually come in the house while she was still in the rehab center and taken all the best furniture out. He also stopped making the mortgage payments causing it to go into foreclosure. I have to say I was feeling pretty angry at her ex-husband by this time as well. The woman then said he had proceeded to lose his job and not pay any child support for the past six months. I asked how they even got by for this long. The woman's reply was, "Not too well." She told me about struggling to pay her medical bills and also her high utility bills. The older home was not very energy efficient. I reviewed all her bills and statements. All looked to be just as she said.

I made some suggestions for additional areas of assistance and also some assistance with collecting her back child support payments. The father should have found a job by now and this was brought to the appropriate authority's attention. We brought their utility bill up to date to prevent disconnection and also to allow her to connect utilities at her next apartment. We also provided grocery gift cards and gift cards for clothing, shoes and school supplies for the children. The mother told me how much the children helped around the house with the chores she still could not manage. She said, "I don't know how I would have got through this without them. They are great kids and I am so blessed."

We went over some options for rentals and she had been doing some homework. She had one that would be perfect on the ground floor as she still struggled with stairs. It was affordable and even had a laundry room onsite. I called the landlord for her and made arrangements for the woman and children to move in on the first of the month, only a week away. Finances would still be very tight for this woman and children until her husband began to pay his child support, but they would be able to get by. When I finished my phone call to the landlord the woman again had tears in her eyes. I watched as she tried to wipe them away again but they would not stop. I handed her a tissue and this time she said, "These are not tears of sadness. I am crying because I am so happy to no longer have to worry about this house and where my children will live. I have held in my tears for so long because I didn't want anyone to feel sorry for me. Now I feel like I can do anything, including getting strong enough to hopefully one day return to work." I encouraged her to continue being so positive and strong. I said,

“You are such a good example of perseverance to your children. You have taken everything negative that has happened to you and yet you remain positive. I commend you for that. There are many people that would benefit from your example.”

When I was preparing to leave the children all came to say goodbye. I told them how proud both the mother and I were of them and then shared how we would be helping them with clothing and school supplies. This time the older daughter tried to hide her own tears and the son jumped around the room in joy the way boys that age do. The daughter said, “You don’t have to do that. Just helping Mom is enough.” I noticed both the daughters and sons short pants and tight shirts. I remember the bullying I received as a child when I pulled my socks up to hide my ankles that showed in own short pants. I knew the embarrassment they were probably feeling. I insisted they take the assistance as I told all of them about all of “You” and how “You” make this assistance possible. They thanked all of “You” for helping them and when I walked to the door they all gave me a hug of gratitude to share with all of “You”.

Several weeks later this woman and children were all settled in their new apartment. The few pieces of furniture were moved and utilities were connected. Food was provided and the children proudly showed me their new jeans and shoes. They each had a jacket for the cold days to come and backpacks filled with school supplies. The mother smiled the whole time I was there, even walking better with the heavy burden removed from her shoulders. This was all thanks to “You” and your generosity. We could not do this alone. We are so grateful we have your support and blessings.

Please donate to our 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, Abbvie Employee Engagement Fund, Donald & Emily Henderson, Gerald & Cheryl Kuhn, Christine Adams, Erich & Diane Lademann, Thomas & Diane Brauer, Marilyn Carver, Michael & Kathe Beach, Nancy Anderson, James & Marilyn Dyer, John Race, Donald Lightfield,

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Memorials: Robert & Betty Madsen in memory of Tom Spiegelhoff. Al & Geri Hinton in memory of Joseph Weise.

Prayer Chain: Please pray for healing for the following people: Mike, Caroline, Susan, Jennifer, 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 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Sundays. 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.

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