

As I began this week's column I noticed it was our 700<sup>th</sup> column. We have shared with all of you 700 letters sharing the lives of those that have been touched by our mission over the past thirteen plus years we have been writing this column. You have read both the hardships and the positive changes we have made. You have shed both sad and happy tears with all of us. You have helped us fulfill our mission to remove the pains of poverty for our fellow creations.

While every week you have been given a glimpse into the lives of these 700 families, senior citizens, the handicapped, veterans and children turning to us in desperate need of assistance, we have helped approximately 6,500 of our fellow American's that you did not read about. They have been quietly helped behind the scenes, no newspaper column or camera was there to capture their plight, but all of "You" were there with us every step of the way. We always feel your love and support that keeps us motivated to continue our mission.

When we began our column our original goal was to bring attention to the fact that there are many people living in extreme poverty. We also wanted to spread the word to the poverty stricken, that there are people who care, and are willing to help. When we began our column many asked how there could be such poverty in our area. Having just moved our organization from the Chicago area to southeast Wisconsin we knew what signs of poverty to look for. We did not have to look far to find our elderly neighbors living without electricity, children sleeping on floors, handicapped individuals needing basic daily necessities, empty refrigerators and cabinets, families on the verge of eviction or already living in cars. Without The Time Is Now to Help they would have been left in their pain and suffering, living in fear, without the daily necessities of life, and living without hope of ever receiving help. All of "You" were not willing to let that happen. "You" helped to spread the word about our charity that used 100% of its donations to provide poverty relief. To this day every penny of your donations are spent on the necessities of daily life for the poverty stricken, including: food, clothing, utilities, toiletries, transportation and shelter assistance.

Word soon spread to the media and the good works we achieved together were shared by CNN, CBS Evening News, CBS Sunday Morning, Fox News and others. But soon after the media left our area our support returned to all of "You", the loyal readers of our weekly newspaper column. "You" are the life blood of what makes The Time Is Now to Help so great. "You" are what helps us achieve what we have shared in the past 700 weeks of newspaper columns along with the 6,500 people we helped in that same time period that were also in desperate need.

Some of the people we helped years ago are no longer with us. Thanks to all of us working together these people were able to die with dignity. Their last thoughts in this life were not hunger, fear and pains of poverty. The children we helped thirteen years ago are now adults and hopefully following our example of hard work and love for our fellow creations. We hope and pray they followed our example of caring and sharing for their neighbors in need. Our wish is their lives were made better thanks to all of us working together to remove their childhood pains of poverty.

This past week we have received many letters requesting our assistance. The need continues to be great. A working poor family is struggling due to the mother being on mandatory bed rest during a high risk pregnancy. The father had missed work to care for her and the younger child and the mother had to give up her job. They are being given help with rent and utilities to get them through this temporary financial and medical emergency. A man recently diagnosed with a debilitating genetic disorder is struggling to adjust to his new life in a wheelchair. We helped him to make modifications to his home and provided a handicap accessible van. These are all changes he could never make on his own yet they have greatly improved his quality of life. Another woman struggling with disabilities was provided a washer and dryer along with food and toiletries. She finds it extremely difficult to leave the home to get to the Laundromat as she has an embarrassing bladder disorder. Now she can wash her bedding and clothing daily to keep up with her personal hygiene. She sent a letter stating, "I don't know how I would have made it this far if God did not put you in my life. Although I am weathering a tougher storm than most, I still keep my head high and I KNOW there will be brighter days." Even with her many difficulties in life our assistance helps her to remain positive.

Many hours, every day, are spent fighting poverty, investigating to make sure every penny we give, together, goes to good people in genuine need. Facing all the challenges and despair of the poverty stricken would be too difficult on my own. Thank God I have all of you sharing your strength through your letters, your kind words, and support to The Time Is Now to Help. Together we make a big difference helping our fellow creations of God. I thank all of you for your support over the past 700 weeks that we have shared together in the plight of the poverty stricken. Your kindness, your Caring and Sharing with the less fortunate in our communities has been far reaching and touched many lives over the years.

"We" together have been and will continue to be a blessing to many. We will continue to do our good works for as long as all of "You" are there standing by our side in this mission. We look forward to hopefully another 700 weeks of columns to celebrate doing good works helping our fellow creations.

Please consider donating to the Richard H. Driehaus \$30,000 Matching Grant. Your funds continue to be 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 Richard H. Driehaus \$30,000 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:** Barnabas Matching Grant, Fox Charities, Larry & Sally Rayner, Christine Adams, Kunes Country Auto Group, Gregg Kunes, Bess Spiva Timmons Foundation, The Harold & Bernice DeWeerd Family Foundation, Martin Business, J. Kruzan Construction & Remodeling, The Dan & Donna Casey Family Charitable Fund, James & Lynne Newman Foundation, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Harleen Corporation, Electronic Specialties, Thomas Getzen, Donald & Emily Henderson, Chavez for Charity, Cornerstone Shoppe, John & Marian McClellan, Mary Peterson, Carol Hinnens, Harold & Ellen Kay Hruska, William & Jean Isaacson, Roland & Diane Schroeder, Joseph & Jacque Moser, Gerald & Joyce Byers, John & Virginia Sullivan, Denise Hubbard, John & Kathy Poiron, Dorothy Tookey, Judy Dishneau, Robert & Patricia Davis, Sandra Chinn, Chad & Julia Dibler, Karin Collamore, William Davit, Mike & Kim Olsen, Elizabeth Shrewsbury, Gregory Swanson, Rhonda Lee DeSautels, Regina Wulf, Tamara Rowley, Harry & Patricia Buchert, Barbara Andres, George Gey, Duane DeYoung, Margaret Plevak, 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.

**Honoraries:** Mark & Natalie Reno in thanks for prayers answered.

**Memorials:** Debra Warwick in memory of Sandy Woodward. Al & Geri Hinton in Memory of Joseph Weise. Marilyn & Don Ketchpaw in memory of Margaret Vos. Margaret Mooney in loving memory of her son Michael Joseph Mooney. Delores Piotrowski in memory of beloved best friend Martha "Dee" Valentine and beloved parents Gene & Lottie Piotrowski.

**Prayer Chain:** Please pray for healing for the following people: Mike, Caroline, Susan, Jennifer, Clarence, Jayden, Santana, Alex, Lily, Kaitlyn, Kynasha, 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](http://www.inspirationministries.org).

**W.C. Food Pantry Food Drive:** Williams Bay Police are hosting a nonperishable food drive for the W.C. Food Pantry and also a Toys for Tots drop-off. If you need to drop off after hours please use phone in vestibule to call officer on duty to accept donation 24/7. Williams Bay Police Department is located at 250 Williams St., Williams Bay, WI.

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