

Dear W.C.,

My elderly aunt is having such a hard time right now. I feel so bad that I cannot help her. I live several hours away and I am a single mother that just gets by. My aunt raised me when my own mother became ill and could no longer care for me. My aunt let a homeless woman stay with her in her mobile home because she felt it was the right thing to do. She is kind and generous to a fault. The woman used my aunt's kindness and stole from her. She stole the money she had saved for her lot rent and utilities. She also used my aunt's car for what she told my aunt was doctor's appointments and to grocery shop for her, but instead she did some damage and used up her whole tank of gas. As soon as my aunt suspected what was going on the woman took off. My aunt called the police but the woman had used an alias and it turns out has several warrants out for her arrest for similar crimes. Someone told her to write a letter to you but I know she will not. She never asks for help. So I am writing a letter for her. Could you please check on my dear aunt?

Dear Readers,

I called the niece that wrote the letter in her aunt's behalf to obtain the aunt's address that was not included in her letter of request. We receive several letters a week that do not contain full names, addresses or phone numbers, which makes our job of bringing assistance to those most in need very difficult. We do our best to contact the people we feel are most desperate but have had to put aside some moving letters when we were not able to locate the requester.

Once we contacted the niece and obtained the location of the aunt I set out for my visit. The niece had provided some additional information in her phone call. When I arrived at the mobile home I noticed a car in the parking space with a broken tail light and dangling muffler. It looked like it had been backed into something from the damage I observed. While I looked at the car I noticed an elderly woman looking curiously out the window at me. I waved and walked up to the door to knock. The door was opened and a petite elderly woman looked up at me. I introduced myself and showed my identification. The woman said, "Did my niece write to you? I told her about your organization but I did not write to you asking for help." I answered, "Yes she did because she is worried about you." The woman looked embarrassed as she said, "She shouldn't worry about me. She has enough to worry about raising her child on her own. I made the mistake of trusting a stranger and now I have to pay for it, not her." I told her, "Well maybe she will not worry about you as much if I check in on you and see for myself if you need some help." The aunt thought for a minute and replied, "Oh, you might as well or the next thing I know she will be here checking on me and I know she does not have the gas to drive all the way over here."

The aunt opened the door fully and led me inside. The mobile home was small and tidy. I noticed she did not have a television or any small appliances on the countertop. The aunt showed me the tiny guest room and I noticed the stripped twin bed. The aunt saw how I was taking notes and asked what I was writing down. I showed her my note pad and said, "I was noting you do not have any bedding. I'm assuming this is the bed your niece sleeps in when she visits." The aunt again looked embarrassed and explained, "I had bedding but the woman that was staying here took it with her when she left." I asked what other things she took with

her and the list grew. The woman had not only taken her cash and bedding, she had also taken her toaster, television, microwave, coffee maker, vacuum and towels. It seems like the criminal woman that had taken from this trusting elderly woman had been furnishing her next apartment at this woman's expense. I asked how she left with all these items and the woman said someone must have picked her up while she slept. She said she woke up the next morning and everything was gone. I asked the woman about the cash she had stolen. The poor senior woman got tears in her eyes and looked away. Her voice shook as she said, "How could I have been so foolish? I had it hidden in a box under my bed. She must have taken it out of my room before I went to bed. I truly felt this woman was being honest with me and needed my help. She seemed so nice and sincere. She must have laughed at my stupidity when she left with all my belongings and the money." I handed the woman a tissue as she was now fully crying. I could hear her heart break as she said, "It isn't just my things I lost that makes me cry. It is losing my trust and faith in people that breaks my heart. I have never been taken advantage of before in my life. I did not realize how much it hurts to trust someone and then they abuse you like this. That woman made me like her and she made me believe she was my friend." I comforted the woman the best I could but I also knew she learned a harsh lesson in life. It is sad that there are people in this world that will go out of their way to hurt a trusting senior citizen. Fortunately there are even more good people like all of "You" that are willing to help and willing to care and share for our fellow creations in desperate need.

After our conversation I took a brief walk around the kitchen and made more notes on my notepad. I could see the senior woman was again questioning what I was writing down so I shared with her what I observed. I said, "I do not see much food in your refrigerator or cabinets. Have you been able to eat properly?" The senior woman shared that she did not have any funds left until she received her next social security check. She had been using up all the canned goods she had in her cabinets until her next social security deposit. I made a phone call to one of our volunteers who was happy to pick up some hot food and some fresh foods as well. While we waited for her to arrive we went to sit at the tiny kitchen table to go through her bills.

I sorted through the few utility bills and overdue lot rent notice. I asked the woman if she would now be keeping her social security money in a bank account and she said she had already opened one. I told her we would be paying her overdue lot rent and utility bills. The senior woman was overwhelmed by our charity towards her. She tried to decline any further assistance but I asked, "Do you want your niece and I to both be worrying about you? We need to make sure you will be okay after I leave." The woman reached over the table for my hand. She held onto it and said, "How can I ever thank you?" I answered, "By not losing all your faith in people but also by keeping yourself safe going forward." The elderly woman was again crying as she agreed.

When we finished reviewing her bills I asked about her car. The senior woman recalled how the homeless woman had said she needed to go to the doctor because she was sick. The senior woman had offered to drive her as she said she had a funny feeling about loaning her the car. The homeless woman had convinced her she was a good driver and did not want to inconvenience her and that she would also stop at the grocery store on the way home. When

the homeless woman returned hours later she said she had not even mentioned she had hit anything. The senior woman had not even seen the damage to her car until after the woman left. The car was not drivable in its present condition. She would have to wait to save up enough to have it fixed as she did not have full insurance on it. I called our trusted car repair shop and they agreed to take a look and give a fair estimate.

After our gratefully received assistance I waited two weeks to visit the senior woman again. This time the woman gave me a hug when I came in the door. She also showed me the new household necessities she had been able to purchase with the gift cards I had provided. A new toaster, bedding and even a small television were proudly displayed. The senior woman said, "I still feel like an old foolish woman but now I know this will not happen to me again. And The Time Is Now to Help and its supporters and volunteers have all shown me there are many more good people in the world than bad. You have restored my faith in humanity." It was good to hear once more about the Thanksgiving we provide every day at The Time Is Now to Help. We are thankful again this year for all of "You". We are thankful we were able to be there to provide assistance when there is nowhere else for our fellow creations to turn. God Bless and Happy Thanksgiving!

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, Lake Geneva Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, ITW Foundation, Elkcast Aluminum, Thomas Getzen, Donald & Emily Henderson, Beth & Jody Rendall, Robert Ribordy, Patricia Jankowski, Walter & Florence Strumpf, Sahri & James Loback, Erik Gustafson, Gale & Ronald Loudonbeck, Gregory & Kathryn Pryor, Church of Jesus Christ LDS, James & Marilynn Dyer, John & Joyce Kirkwood, Louis & Vivian Vivado, Joseph & Patricia Zeien, Marvin & Audrey Hersko, Clark & Charlene Hatfield, Goodshop, 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. Kris Andersen & Kurtis Boss in honor of Liz Boss' birthday. Liz Boss & Kurtis Boss in honor of Kris Andersen's birthday.

Memorials: 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. Margaret Cardiff in memory of Marty Hansen & John Mercier.

Prayer Chain: Please pray for healing for the following people: Mike, Caroline, Susan, Jennifer, Clarence, Jayden, Santana, Alex, Lily, Kaitlyn, Kynesha, Brandi's Grandma, Marilyn & Sal.

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.

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