

Dear W.C.,

So many people are hurrying to get their Christmas presents bought and rushing off to family gatherings. I will not be enjoying any holiday preparations. I am a senior widow with no remaining living family. My two sons both died before me, one when he was a teenager and my older son died last year of a heart attack. I have had some unexpected expenses these past months, glasses and a trip to the dentist that have caused me to fall behind in my rent and utilities. I needed my glasses as I was having such a hard time seeing and it has been ten years since I got a pair. I saw the dentist because I had a bad cavity that was causing me so much pain. I used my rent money to pay my dentist and my utility money to buy glasses. I remember having holidays with my family over the years and it was such a happy time. Now it is a sad, lonely time and also stressful because of these added expenses.

Dear Readers,

I find many lonely seniors throughout the year and especially during the holiday season. They have no family to celebrate with and often are living on very restricted budgets. When a senior is getting by only on Social Security any extra expense will affect their budget for months. This widow was no exception.

When a volunteer visited this senior woman she set about fulfilling her Christmas Wish. We removed her stress and pains of poverty by paying her rent for two months and brought her utilities up to date and into the future. This would allow the senior woman to get back on budget.

I reached out to the senior woman and we had a very nice conversation. She talked about her family and friends she had lost over the years. We also talked about all of "You", the good people that allow The Time Is Now to Help to assist so many in our community. The senior woman was crying grateful tears as she asked, "Do those good people even know how they are helping a lonely old woman like me? This has given me my will to live again. I felt fear and despair but now I have hope knowing I'm not alone. It is wonderful to know there are good people out there that really care."

I set up some additional visits with two other volunteers. These visits included gifts and even treats that were acceptable on her diabetic meal plan. I also arranged for additional senior services and one of the volunteers offered to take her to her church to be part of a senior group that does activities together. This would allow the woman to have some social time with new friends. When I spoke to the senior woman just a few days ago she was a completely different person. After shedding happy tears, and many thanks to all of "You", I could hear the laughter in her voice. I knew this laughter and joy was a Christmas Wish we all made possible for this senior woman.

Dear W.C.,

I am a hard working single mother. I take pride in being a good parent and a good employee. This past week my car wouldn't start. Of course it was when I was leaving for work. I had to

call several friends and family members until I could find someone that could drive me to work a half hour away. This caused me to be late. I do not have any more days off available as I had used every one several months ago when my ten year old son had surgery. I had to then get a ride home from work, including picking my son up from after school care. I had my car towed to service and found out the repair is much more than I can afford. I don't know what to do. This couldn't have come at a worse time as my son is still struggling with his health and I do not have any more time off available. Christmas is around the corner and I will now not be able to purchase the one toy my son has asked for. My employer has given me a warning already for the few late days caused by my lack of transportation. Can you please help me with a car repair so I do not lose my job?

Dear Readers,

As I was still not fully recovered from my recent illness I called this mother to discuss her car issues. She told me the quote for service and we went over her budget. She told me where her car was at and I arranged for it to be towed to our mechanics for evaluation. Once I saw the quote from our mechanic I gave the okay to begin the repairs. I also had made some notes about other things the mother had said they were in need of. I knew she was having more financial difficulties than just the car repair. She and her son were living very frugally. I even asked what her son would like for Christmas. The mother replied, "We are so grateful for what you have promised already. I cannot ask for more."

The next day a volunteer not only drove the mother to work on time, they also went to purchase the much wanted toy and several other household necessities mentioned by the mother. When the mother was picked up from work and taken to pick up her repaired car she was greeted with a car full of surprises. There were several bags of food, new sheets and a blanket for the son's new bed that was going to be delivered. Several toys, including the favorite toy that was on the sons Christmas list, were all in bags in the car. About an hour later I received a phone call filled with sobs from this proud single mother. She broke down in tears saying, "I never expected anything like this. No one has ever cared for us other than me. Now I see I don't have to do this alone. The Time Is Now to Help has shown me that Christmas Wishes do come true."

Dear Readers,

These are just two of the many, many letters we have been answering in the past few weeks thanks to all of "You" and our generous matching grant donors. You have been such a blessing to each and every one of our recipients. Christmas Wishes have been granted and the spirit of Christmas has removed the pains of poverty for so many. When you are unable to pay your rent, pay your car payment and purchase food, the last thing you can even consider doing is purchasing Christmas presents. Christmas is just like every other day, full of hunger, fear and worry. Well, not when we show up at the door of a person that has written a letter full of desperation and tears. We fill their lives with joy as we spread our Christmas Wish cheer to those suffering in poverty.

We have been blessed with several matching grant opportunities this year that have made our work achievable. We are blessed to have good volunteers that go above and beyond their duties. We are blessed to have good donors that give when we share the need in our communities. We are blessed to call all of “You” friends and helpers in our mission to remove the pains of poverty. God Bless all of “You” and we wish you a very Merry Christmas.

There are many of our fellow creations turning to us for help or being referred by others. It is very important we keep our momentum of helping the poverty stricken. The Fox Charities donors recognize this and have graciously once again stepped up to help. Please remember every dollar you donate at this time will be matched by the Fox Charities Christmas Wish 2016 \$25,000 Matching Grant, not only doubling your donation but also doubling your poverty assistance. The children, the handicapped, the elderly, those that cannot fend for themselves, those living in desperate need will be crying happy tears of relief thanks to all of “You”, Fox Charities and The Time Is Now to Help working together to provide poverty relief. Together “We” make a difference removing the pains of poverty for our fellow creations. Thank you and God Bless you.

*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, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Harleen Corporation, Electronic Specialties, Lake Geneva Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Elkcast Aluminum, Thomas Morrissy, John & Valerie Lincoln, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schuberth, Allen Hermansen, Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Dunham, Gloria Dastoli, Barbara Eisenhower, Douglas & Jean Chase, Walter & Florence Strumpf, Kathleen & Brian Hurdis, Steven Christian, Donald & Jean Cooper, Francis & Delores Corbett, Judy Dishneau, Peterson Drywall, Robert Lietsch, Beth & Jody Rendall, Michol Ann Ford, David & Shirley Heigl, Al & Ellen Burnell, James & Shari Loback, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Orval & Jane Volbrecht, George & Barbara Partyka, Robert Sheridan, Carol Hanke, Michael Macisaac, Gerald Lins, James & Marilyn Dyer, Immanuel United Church of Christ, John & Vickie Geier, James & Jean Robinson, Marvin & Audrey Hersko, Peter Popik, Dorothy Tookey, John Race, Thomas & Diane Brauer, Joan Murphy, 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:** Al & Geri Hinton in memory of Joseph S. Ahlgren. Ron & Carolyn Bloch in memory of Marge Holt. The Rotary Club of Harlingen-Sunburst in memory of

Sharon H. Seiser. Shirley Waters in memory of Frances Layo.

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

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