

Dear W.C.,

My family is in desperate need of your help. My wife has been sick for several years with cancer and now my four year old son is in the hospital. Our car broke down at the hospital and we have no other means of transportation. I work full-time but will lose my job if our car is not running. I have no way to get my wife to her doctor's appointments and treatments. I also can't be with my son in the hospital. I had my car towed but now I can't afford to pay the estimate for service they gave me. Between the medical bills, health insurance payments, co-pays and now my son sick too I don't know how we will get through this month. I am so stressed but I am trying to keep it together for my family. They have been through so much already and now this. I feel like a failure. Please help us.

Dear Readers,

Many of our fellow Americans continue to struggle even when they have a job and health insurance. Most people I have talked to that are on Obama care have seen a large increase in their payments and had to raise their deductibles. For working poor families this is a huge hit to their already stretched budgets. For our fellow creations battling a long illness it can quickly lead to living in poverty. This family that I was soon to find out had previously been a healthy working family, with both adults working and no problem paying their health insurance, rent, car repairs, utilities and food in the past, was now living with the stress and pains of poverty. They were now what we call "working poor". They have a job but due to factors often out of their control, they do not earn enough to cover all their bills.

After going to their address several times and never finding them home I called the father that had written this desperate letter requesting our assistance. I was saddened to find out why I never found them at their home address. The father tearfully told me over the phone that both his son and his wife were in the hospital again. He shared that his wife had become so distressed over their son's possible life threatening disease she had ended up in the hospital. It seems the mother is still very fragile after her third round of chemotherapy. The young son was having tests to find out the cause of his symptoms and they had not found out yet what the cause may be but the doctors had mentioned the possibility of something life threatening. I asked the father how he was getting to and from the hospital and he said he was not. He was taking time off from work to stay at the hospital with his son. He was staying at Children's Hospital with their young son and his wife was in a different hospital. The husband said, "I feel so helpless not being there to help my wife but we agreed I should stay here with our son."

I asked the father many details about their financial situation. I knew it would be difficult to talk openly in the hospital by their child and I did not want to add to their already stressful position. I knew this family needed our help right away and The Time Is Now to Help was the only organization that could provide the help they needed. The father and I talked for a very long time going over their finances and his wife's long struggle with cancer. He shared the extensive treatments and surgery she had already gone through and how they were now just trying to extend her life long enough so she could spend more time with her son. The

father cried many times during the often times painful conversation. I felt myself wiping away tears over what this family had already endured.

Once I had determined they were indeed in need of our assistance I asked to have the phone number of the car repair shop where his car was located. The father had to get off the phone due to his son going in for another test so I told him I would use the time to work on his transportation situation. I called our trusted car repair shop and made arrangements to have the car towed to their location. Within a few hours I had the news I was not happy to hear. The car was determined to be not worth the costly repair required to make it safe and reliable transportation. I spoke to our trusted car repair shop about his options. They told me about a used car that was available to purchase at a very reasonable price. The car was already fully repaired, had new tires and much lower miles than the car he had hoped to repair. We made arrangements for the purchase of this car for this struggling family.

I called the father back and after he shed happy tears telling me the good news his son did not have a life threatening illness, but he would require a long stay in the hospital, he shed even more happy tears when I told him about the used car we would be replacing his unreliable transportation with. The father could not believe “We” could do this for his family. His gratitude was overwhelming for the relief we had given him. He could not wait to call his wife and tell her the news he hoped would help her recover quickly from her current setback. The father said, “My wife has been overwhelmed by not only the thought of our son being sick but also the fear of me losing my job and not being able to get to our medical care. You have removed all those fears with two phone calls. I had heard The Time Is Now to Help creates solutions when things look hopeless. This is beyond anything I had hoped for when I wrote you a letter last week.”

A few days later the father was driving the car, we all provided together, to the hospital to pick up his wife. He called me to let me know his son was recovering and he was going to pick up his wife from the hospital and bringing her to see their son. His employment was secure. We also provided one month’s rent, food, gas and utility assistance to ease their financial situation. I finally met the family when I stopped by a few weeks later and got to meet them all. After greeting everyone with handshakes and looking at their apartment and car we provided, we all smiled and shed happy tears with hugs goodbye. I share these hugs and even the happy tears with all of “You” that make these good works possible. God Bless all of “You”.

There are many of our fellow creations turning to us for help or being referred by others. 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”, the Fox Charities New Year Wish \$25,000 Matching Grant and The Time Is Now to Help working together to provide poverty relief. Please donate now knowing every dollar will be matched, doubling your donation. Together “We” make a difference removing the pains of poverty for our fellow creations. Thank you and God Bless you.

Health & Happiness, Love & 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: Fox Charities, Marilyn G. Schawk, Martin Business, J. Kruzan Construction & Remodeling, Bernard Labovitch, Hufcor Foundation, Mary Kay Ring, Bonnie Glennon, Mr. & Mrs. Phil Hagenah, Joseph Shaughnessy, Twin Bay Charitable Foundation, Benne-Fit Valley Foundation, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schuberth, Peter & Anna Vanderveld Foundation, Debra Guzman, Thomas & Mary Johnson, St. Nick Fund, Kenneth & Gwen Swanson, Budget Blinds, Corcoran Landscaping & Construction, Thomas & Cynthia Schuetz, Philip & Mary Lous Edmond, Tim Keiderling, Joel Voss, Ada Duffey, Michael & Monica Rehberg, Women of Williams Bay Lutheran Church, United Credit Services, Landon Petrie Jr. & Nancy Schwab, Deborah Lenchard, Patricia Christopherson, Gerald & Joyce Byers, Judy Dishneau, Beth & Jody Rendall, Rodney & Virginia Paulsen, Richard & Jane Roman, Delavan Christian Reformed Church Knit & Crochet Club, Stanley & Carolyn Logterman, Frank & Donna Scherkenbach, Wendy Fitch, John & Marian McClellan, Elkhorn Chemical & Packaging, 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: Sue & Mike Borden in memory of Gayle Leep. Richard & Elizabeth Czaja in memory of Isla Sorenson. Donald & Joan Wolfram & family in memory of Hedwig Braun.

Prayer Chain: A big “thank you” for all of your prayers and good thoughts. We have received phone calls and letters from those that have gotten well. Some of our loved ones have had their cancer go into remission, some have had their enormous anguish of pain physically healed. The power of prayer and positive thoughts comes from the true healer, our Lord answering our prayers. Please pray for healing for the following people: Mike, Caroline, Susan, Jennifer, Clarence, Jayden, Santina, Alex, Lily, Kaitlyn, Kynesha, Brandi’s Grandma, Marilyn & Lois.

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. 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.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org