

We are happy to announce we have successfully matched the Fox Charities New Year Wish \$25,000 Matching Grant. Fox Charities has been such a generous supporter of all the good works we do together to alleviate the pains of poverty in our communities. Their generosity and inspiration has meant we have been able to continue to provide life changing assistance to thousands of people over the past nine years. There are not enough ways we can say thank you to Fox Charities and all of "You" who have been touched by their generous offer to double your donations. We are busy using these funds to remove the pains of poverty for many senior citizens, the handicapped, working poor families, children and single mothers throughout our communities. Soon we will share with you where every penny of the Fox Charities New Year Wish \$25,000 Matching Grant was spent.

We are also happy to announce we have been provided a new matching grant opportunity, the Family Foundation 2017 \$30,000 Matching Grant, to begin immediately. Last year the Family Foundation provided their first \$30,000 matching grant and they were amazed by not only your enthusiastic matching of that grant, but also all "We" accomplished together. We are so very grateful for our matching grant contributors and all the poverty relief their inspiration provides. God Bless the Family Foundation, Fox Charities and all of "You" for making our mission to remove the pains of poverty a reality for so many of our fellow creations throughout our communities.

Dear W.C.,

I am a sixty year old grandfather that is unable to work since I had surgery over eight weeks ago. I went in for what was supposed to be a simple outpatient procedure that ended up turning into two different five day stays in the hospital and weeks of pain and infections. My daughter and two grandchildren live with me after she escaped an abusive relationship. My daughter just got a full time job but the daycare costs eat up a large part of her paycheck. I used to be able to help with the kids when she worked nights as a waitress but now I am unable to do any lifting or running after the children. This whole medical problem has been a nightmare and gone on for over eight weeks. I never dreamed of being in this position at this point in my life. My wife died several years ago and the only other family I have is my son who lives out of state and is in no position to help me or his sister. I wanted to give my daughter and grandchildren a better life by having them move in with me. Now I'm in no position to help them or myself.

Dear Readers,

I went to visit the grandfather and family at the address listed in his letter of request. The door to the modest home was opened by a thin man that I knew was not quite a senior citizen yet looked older than the age he had stated in his letter. If this was the gentleman that had written the letter explaining his long road to recovery after an outpatient surgery took a devastating turn it had definitely taken a lot out of him. He was stooped and still looked gravely ill. I introduced myself and I saw the first glimpse of a smile when he realized who was at his door.

After introducing ourselves, and indeed learning this was the man that had been through a medical nightmare, he invited me inside. The man explained the house was quiet due to his daughter being at work and grandchildren were at daycare. He took me on a short tour around the small home and I saw the evidence of children living there by the toys on the coffee table and the high chair in the kitchen. He showed me the room his daughter shared with the two children that contained a twin bed and a portable crib. I asked if they all slept in there and the man explained his daughter did share the room with the two children because she felt safer sleeping with them. I noted there was only one sagging twin bed and he showed me the mat his daughter rolled out on the floor to sleep on. While we walked to the living room to talk the man told me about his daughter's domestic abuse situation and how her abuser was recently arrested on other charges that should put him in jail for a long time. They all felt relieved knowing he would not be bothering them any time soon. I made a note that if their assistance from The Time is Now to Help was approved we would provide the daughter with a new double bed to allow her to sleep on a bed and not on the floor.

As we sat down to talk I noted the way he held his abdomen and slowly lowered himself to his chair. I asked the man about the surgery and he told me all the details of his long ordeal. What should have been an outpatient procedure with a short recovery had turned into nearly ten weeks of recovery since the procedure. Several infections then followed the botched procedure that required an additional hospital stay with IV antibiotics and another repair surgery. His job was on hold but he could not return to his physically active occupation until he was fully recovered, and it was easy to see he was not close to fully recovered yet. The man showed me his incisions and mounting medical bills. I asked to see their other bills and he shared their utility bill and house payments were behind. He also said his daughter was using his truck to get to her job right now because her car was broke down and they did not have the money to repair it. I asked to see the car and after seeing it would be worth repairing set it up for service. After reviewing the bills and seeing they were indeed having a very hard few months I asked some further questions of the gentleman.

I asked about his lack of savings at his age. The man said, "My wife had breast cancer that was very aggressive. We used all our savings to try and save her. We even tried some alternative procedures that we had hoped would work when nothing else stopped the cancer. They helped for awhile but they were so expensive and the insurance would not pay any of them." The man began to cry when he said, "She got to see our oldest grandchild be born and then she couldn't hold on any longer. She stopped all her treatments and gave up. It all made her so sick and she was in so much pain." He wiped his eyes before continuing, "I'm glad she didn't have to see what our daughter went through with her ex-husband. It would have broken her heart to learn what both she and the grandchildren went through."

I asked the man some more questions about the daughter's present situation with her ex to make sure they were indeed in a safe place now. He was happy to share he would be in jail for a long time and his daughter was now free to work and live her life without fear.

Once I was assured they could continue to live in their home both financially and physically safe I told the man we would pay both his overdue utility bill and very reasonable house payment. The man again got tears in his eyes and tried to quickly wipe them away. He said,

“I am a proud Christian man. I have prayed on this situation we are in for many weeks. I would never have thought to write you a letter until my pastor suggested it. Now I see how God has worked through you to provide assistance to so many people in need. You are a life saver for my family and I. How can I ever thank you?” I explained to him about how all of “You” and your generosity are what allow me to do our good works together. He answered, “Well you can bet I will be including all those good people in my prayers too and thanking them endlessly.”

After our assistance, which included not only the utilities and house payment but also the daughters car repair, a new mattress, toiletries and some household necessities, they were able to pick up the pieces once the grandfather returned to work a month later. He told me he has been able to take it slow and his employer even hired an assistant for the heavy lifting and physically demanding portion of his job. We have together removed the pains of poverty for this family that has been through so much already. At my last visit the man broke into tears and looking into my eyes he said, “I cannot thank everyone from The Time Is Now to Help enough for lifting us up and putting our lives back together. Every time I opened the mail I wondered how I would be able to pay that bill. Every time I touched the thermostat I wondered how I could pay the utilities. All of you have relieved me of all that stress and worry. Let everyone know I’m still praying for them.” And we are too. Removing this man’s stress has allowed him to heal and care for his family once more. God Bless all of you for allowing us to help this family.

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 Family Foundation 2017 \$30,000 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 big 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:** Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust, Family Foundation, Fox Charities, Marilyn G. Schawk, Martin Business, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schuberth, Debra Guzman, Thomas & Mary Johnson, St. Nick Fund, Kenneth & Gwen Swanson, Budget Blinds, Corcoran Landscaping & Construction, Lake Geneva Economic Development Corp., Thomas & Cynthia Schuetz, Philip & Mary Lou Edmond, Philip & Helen Joyce, Mary Ann Smith, Jeffrey Arnold, J.T. Marty, Theresa Hurley, Winck Remeus, Judy Dishneau, Al & Rosemarie Reiherzer, Barbara Kufalk, Louise Bender, George & Laurretta Clettenberg, Elkhorn Chemical & Packaging, Jeanne Allen, Lawrence & Barbara

Thibault, Walter & Gloria Kosierowski, Donna Tronca, Lakeland Trash Service, Leslie & Carol Paur, Jane Evans Krenz, Marvin & Audrey Hersko, Robert & Betty Huebsch, Sandra McGough, Kenneth & Susan Schooley, Douglas Thorp, Rhonda Lee Desautels, Duane DeYoung, Lawrence Fohrman, Jean Lois, E. & Barbara Andres, William Davit, 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:** Katherine Ritter in honor of Brian Phillips. John & Marlys Scherman in honor of Becky Monahan's Birthday.

**Memorials:** Beth & Jody Rendall in memory of Donna Olson. Al & Geri Hinton in memory of Patricia Marsh. Peggy Cardiff in memory of Dot Cardiff and Lisa Haydam. James & Carolyn Miles in memory of Kristy Sather. The following family members of Brynn Rae Thornburg in honor of her memory on her birthday: Bill & Patsy Thornburg, Eric, Casey Isabella & Alex Thornburg, Erin Thornburg & Adam Gibbs, Britt, Matt, Kalam & Brayden Brill.

**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, Santana, 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](http://www.inspirationministries.org).

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