

Dear W.C.,

I am hoping and praying you can help my co-worker. She is going through a very difficult time right now. She has two children, one with special needs, and her husband has recently gone through several surgeries for a heart problem. She has had to take some unpaid days off to care for him and her son. They also have had many medical expenses and struggle with their unreliable car. I admire this woman's strength and her will to help her family, but I don't know how she can get through this alone. I have included her contact information so you can reach out to her and find out all they are going through.

Dear Readers,

We receive many letters a week that do not have any contact information so we were relieved to see this included. If we are unable to find someone's address or phone number we cannot provide any assistance. If you do not include a full name we also cannot provide assistance. We wanted to get this message out to anyone considering writing to us for assistance, please include your full name, address and phone number.

I called the woman that was referred by her co-worker. She seemed surprised at first that I called but then said, "My friend at work told me about The Time Is Now to Help and that she had written to you in my behalf, but I did not expect any response." I shared with the woman some of the history of our organization and what we do for people in our communities. After listening to what I had to say she said, "I think my friend was right. The Time Is Now to Help is just the kind of help I have been praying for."

I went to the address provided by the co-worker and confirmed by the woman in need. She met me at the door before I even knocked, speaking quietly. She explained her husband was napping and still very fatigued after his recent heart surgery. The children were in school so the townhome was quiet as she led me into the kitchen to talk. I questioned why she was not at work and the woman explained her husband had just had his second surgery the previous week and was still in need of her help.

After explaining some more about our charity and how it works the woman seemed more comfortable talking about their very personal struggle. I asked about the husband's surgeries and asked if she had any supporting documents she would feel comfortable showing me. She showed me his hospital bills and several large medical bills she was making payments on already. I asked about their rent and utilities and she showed me late notices for these as well. The woman showed me her bank statement showing several overdrafts after their health insurance payments were automatically withdrawn from their account. I could see they were having both a financial and health struggle at this time.

The woman looked embarrassed as I asked about some of the bills and questioned if they had applied for any assistance. The woman shared she had applied for some assistance but due to the fact she was still working they were not receiving enough to keep up with all their bills on top of the medical bills. I inquired when she would be going back to work and she said they had planned on her returning right away but her husband had not recovered as well as

they thought and then needed another procedure for further repair. It had been six weeks of her only able to report to work for one or two days a week. I asked about her job security. The woman explained her employer has been very understanding and said they would not let her go, but she had already used up all her paid days off. The woman looked worried as she said, "I hope to go back to work full-time next week and my husband should be back at work in six weeks. We only need to get through these next few weeks without losing everything."

This is our goal with everyone we help. We want to give them a helping hand to get them through a difficult situation, keep them from becoming homeless or living without utilities, and then step away so they can get by on their own. I knew we together could get this family through this difficult situation and get them out of the stress and pains of impending poverty.

As I was briefly looking around their kitchen I heard a faint call from the other room. The woman told me if I wanted to I was welcome to look around as she excused herself to help her husband. I looked through the refrigerator and cabinets while waiting for the woman to return, taking notes that they had mild food insecurity. I noted the many prescriptions for heart medications on the counter. Just as I was about to sit down again at the table the woman and her husband came into the room. The husband walked over slowly and shook my hand, saying, "My wife just told me about you and The Time Is Now to Help. I wanted to thank you for helping us. This has been weighing so heavily on me. If I didn't have this set back we would be fine. My wife works so hard to care for me and the kids and all I can do is worry about my family and how we are going to get by if I don't get back to work." The man carefully sat down, put his hands over his face and was sobbing and crying. I saw how worried and emotional he was about their whole situation. I watched as he held his chest again, obviously in pain from the emotional conversation. I knew this stress and worry would not help him heal any faster or help their financial situation. I walked over to the man and put my hand on his shoulder, telling him everything would be alright. I knew it was important for him to hear these words of comfort and to know we were there to remove some of his stress and fear over their financial instability. After several minutes he calmed down and grasped my hand as I told him about all of "You" and our mission to remove the pains of poverty. He commented, "I didn't know there were people out there that really cared about other people's suffering." He began to cry again as he said, "Thank you, thank you."

I showed the husband the notes I had written so far. I asked him about his job and his heart surgeries. We talked about their car and what repairs it would need. His wife's car had several problems that needed repair immediately to insure she could get to work and get her husband to his medical appointments. I arranged for her car to be repaired so she could get to her job in the following week. When I got off my phone with the car repair shop the husband said, "Wow. You do work fast don't you." I told the husband, "That is why we are called The Time is Now to Help."

I left their townhome just as the two children were due to come home from school. The parents did not want the children knowing the financial problems they were having since they were already so worried about their father. The mother said, "Our older son has some learning disabilities and does not handle stress that well. We have been trying to keep the seriousness of everything from him." We said our goodbyes and I left to begin my mission of

removing the pains of poverty for this family. I promised to contact them in several weeks to check on their progress.

After our assistance with rent, utilities, car repairs and gift cards for food and gas, this family was no longer living every minute worrying about how they would pay their bills. They still would be struggling to make ends meet until the husband returned to work full-time and the wife was able to return to her job as well. This would all happen within weeks of our assistance. Now the husband was able to relax enough to let his heart heal and give his body time to recover its strength after two heart surgeries.

The last time we spoke the husband and wife were full of gratitude for all “You” had done to save them from certain poverty. The wife said, “I still cannot believe complete strangers came to our aid when we were about to lose everything. I am so thankful my co-worker wrote a letter for us and you were there to help us. Without her contacting you, and The Time Is Now to Help helping us, we would have never been able to get out from under the dark cloud of impending poverty. We cannot thank all of you enough for removing our stress and worry and allowing my husband to heal.” The husband would be returning to work in a few weeks as his healing was progressing properly after the second surgery. The wife was already back at work full-time and contributing to the family successfully overcoming poverty. Thanks to all of “You” they would not be a statistic but a success story. God Bless “You” for your generosity to our mission that allows us to remove the pains of poverty for our fellow creations in desperate need.

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 Schubert, Debra Guzman, Unilock, Thomas & Mary Johnson, St. Nick Fund, Kenneth & Gwen Swanson, Budget Blinds, Corcoran Landscaping & Construction, Lake Geneva Economic Development Corp., Thomas & Cynthia Schuetz, Ahndelay, Layni Gayhart, Phil & Barbara McMahon, Greg Pennington, Mary Boehm, Laurie Glauner, Chandra Haas, Lisa Mattern, Richard & Christine Costa, Sarah Greco, Edward Paredes, Denise Sifuentes, Karin

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**Memorials:** James & Carolyn Miles in memory of Kristy Sather. Peggy Cardiff in memory of Dot Cardiff & Lisa Haydam.

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

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