

Sometimes in our rush to do everything we need to do to run a busy charity, to bring assistance to as so many people in the most expedient way possible, we do not take the time to reflect on the lives touched by The Time Is Now to Help. When we receive a thank you letter or phone call we are reminded how our good works have truly changed a life for the better, but once the assistance is successful we move on to the next person in need of our caring and sharing.

In this week's column we thought we would reflect on some of the people helped this year so far. Most of our recipients prefer to remain anonymous and we abide by their wishes. We will share with you the situations that brought about their need for a helping hand. You will see that there are a multitude of reasons for poverty in our communities. Some are typical and some are unusual, but they all share the same suffering, the same pains of poverty.

The first assistance provided this year was to a homeless woman living in her broken down van. In the freezing cold of January we received a phone call from a concerned person about a woman living in her van with her pet. One of our trusted volunteers assessed the situation and found out the woman had broken down on her way moving to live with family out of state. She had no living family left in our area and not nearly enough money to repair her van. She had recently suffered the loss of her husband to cancer and previously had lost her daughter due to a drunk driver, so life was extremely hard for this woman. Her only remaining loved one was her beloved dog. Her vehicle was not safe and not worth repairing. After we evaluated the circumstances we found the best assistance we could provide would be a vehicle to get her safely to her destination. We verified the woman had a place to live and a job awaiting her, if she could just get to her new location. After several extremely cold nights sleeping with her pet in her broken down van before she was brought to our attention, this woman was overwhelmed by the generosity that The Time Is Now to Help was able to share. A volunteer helped her transfer her few belongings into the vehicle we provided and after filling her tank with gas she and her dog were on their way to their new life, warm and safe. This is the first of many lives touched this year.

The following day we received an email from a local organization concerning a single mother with a heart condition living in a motel with her three children. Again one of our trusted volunteers paid a visit to the motel and indeed found the email to be true. The mother had lost her job due to her inability to work until she was approved for her surgery. With The Time Is Now to Help providing assistance with rent to secure safe shelter, this mother and children were able to move out of the motel and into an apartment. The mother was approved for surgery last month and once she completes an eight week recovery she will be able to return to work and be self sufficient once more. What if we hadn't been able to provide rent assistance for this mother and children? Would they still be living in a motel or even worse, living like the first woman we helped in a car? Thanks to all of "You" they did not have to endure that stress and worry.

In the two weeks following these two clients we helped over twenty people. Our next people helped were a husband and wife, both with age related conditions. The senior woman suffers from a neurologic disorder and she is also the caregiver for her husband whom suffers from dementia. Many seniors over the years have told me how hard it is to live out your golden

years in poverty. This husband and wife are an example of the kinds of seniors The Time Is Now to Help assists almost every day. Our fellow creations that worked hard their whole lives, saved for their future, and one illness wipes out everything they saved for. This couple is struggling with two illnesses and after a thorough evaluation of their budget I found their rent to be much too high for them to safely continue paying. The wife had been hesitant to move due to her husband's inability to handle change well. Their lease was up for renewal and after encouragement from us and our utility assistance they were able to safely move to a much more affordable and accessible rental. Our assistance made it possible for them to have utilities connected at their new rental. The senior woman called to let me know her husband was getting along fine after a few rough days of extra confusion. She was so grateful to not have the stress of trying to stretch their fixed income to pay their high monthly rent. Now they have enough funds to also afford utilities, food and other daily necessities.

Several cars were repaired the following week, along with emergency shelter in motels for several families. A woman wrote us about her physically and psychologically abusive marriage. The torture she endured was quite horrific and only made worse by her ex-husband's drug addiction. After several exhausting years of escaping her horrible marriage she was left financially and mentally drained. When we spoke I listened to this woman share years of torture with me. It is always hard to hear what our fellow creations endure; it does not get any easier. I consoled her as she shed many tears, needing someone to talk to. I was moved by this woman's determination and positive attitude, even after the years of having her hopes and dreams driven out of her she kept these inspiring qualities. Her ex-husband had ruined her first job by showing up and causing a scene. He fought her for custody of the children and even with his violent and drug related police records and recorded threats she had to prove he was incapable of being a good father. That took every resource she had and once she had her children safe from her ex-husband's violence she was finally able to have peace of mind living without his continued threats. Thanks to all of "You" this mother and children are now happy and safely away from harm. They also are able to sleep on new beds and live with much needed household necessities provided thanks to your donations.

The following week we were able to successfully move our families living in motels into rentals they could safely afford going forward. These families will no longer have to suffer the inconvenience of not having a place to call home. While they are very grateful for the emergency shelter provided on a cold winter night it is not where you want to live for a long time. The lack of a full kitchen and laundry facilities, the lack of privacy for a family with children all sharing one room is not ideal. The gratitude these families have for our assistance that took them from fear and shame to confidence and new found pride is shared with all of "You". It takes a lot of work to turn these fellow creations lives around but we would not give up that opportunity to bring about this change. It is what we do. It is what your donations allow us to do.

Another week went by with our helping a group of senior citizens that lived in a low income housing project. Most were sleeping on old mattresses or couches. All did not have the money needed to purchase adequate bedding. One of the senior gentlemen was living in constant pain and was in desperate need of dental care. All this assistance was provided thanks to you and a caring person that knew the hardship these seniors were enduring. The

same week a single mother was also provided with much needed dental care. If you have ever suffered a toothache you know the pain we relieved was very gratefully received.

These are just a few of the many fellow creations we helped through the end of February. We had hoped to actually bring you up to date with the assistance “You” have provided this year so far but there are too many stories of assistance to tell. The poverty relief your donations provided is far reaching and life changing, and as always 100% of your donations has been used to provide this poverty relief. Not one penny of your donations has been used for our overhead, salaries or reimbursements. We volunteer all our time and energy to make this charity a success at removing the pains of poverty. We thank “You” for your huge part in making our organization a lifeline for the poverty stricken.

We want to thank the Family Foundation for their wonderful matching grant opportunity. It is inspiring many to help by matching your donation dollar for dollar. We especially need your help now during winter helping those that are 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 Schuberth, Debra Guzman, Unilock, Rhoades Foundation, Freedom Plastics Foundation, Petco Foundation, Lake Geneva Economic Development Corp., Rotary Club of Lake Geneva, Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, Grunow Family Fund, Deborah Halverson, Rita’s Wells Street Salon, Elkhorn Chemical & Packaging, Carolyn May Essel, Jack & Mary Lou Mc Kinney, Shawn & Donna McLafferty, Patricia Jankowski, Judy Dishneau, George & Jennifer Macintyre Jr., Cheryl Farrar, John Race, H. Steven & Joanne Pojman, Robert & Patricia Davis, Donald & Gail Holden, Edward & Tammy Leonard, Carol Hinnners, George & Loretta Clettenberg, Phyllis Heinrich, Bonnie Cowans, Lisa Matt, John & Kathy Poiron, Denise Hubbard, Connemara, Jeanette Logterman, Beth Jurgensen, John & Marian McClellan, 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:** The following family members of Brynn Rae Thornburgh in honor of her

memory on her birthday: Bill & Patsy Thornburgh, Eric, Casey Isabella & Alex Thornburgh, Erin Thornburgh & Adam Gibbs, Britt, Matt, Kalam & Brayden Brill. Robert & Mary Ann Zelenski in memory of Mary Borgert.

**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)