

Dear W.C.,

I am a senior citizen and also a cancer survivor. I had breast cancer nine years ago and after a year of surgery, chemo and radiation I was considered in remission. My husband died five years ago. Since that time I have had some heart problems. I was working full time but now with my heart condition getting worse I recently gave up my job. I have applied for housing assistance but I am waiting to hear the results. I have had to pay all the co-pays and prescriptions for my heart medications and I've had a problem with my teeth that I cannot afford to fix. The pain keeps me up nights and I haven't been able to eat properly for the past week. I am finding it difficult to pay my rent and utilities this month so I cannot afford to go to the dentist. Could you please help me to catch up on my bills and possibly even a dentist visit?

Dear Readers,

I find many of our senior citizens still needing to work in order to get by. Considering most of them live very frugally it is often difficult to find fault in their budgeting skills. Sometimes I find them trying to live in homes with too much monthly upkeep for them both physically and financially. Other times expensive medications, dental care or eyeglasses, and car repairs get in the way of their careful spending. I would soon find out what we could do to help this senior woman live more comfortably both physically and financially.

I went to the address of the rental home the senior woman had shared with me. I arrived to find a home that was probably more work to keep up than this senior woman could afford. I rang the door bell and it was answered in a minute by a senior woman. After we spoke at the door for a few minutes, and I showed my identification that she squinted at through her scratched old glasses, she invited me inside. I couldn't help but see her also wincing in pain while trying to talk to me. When I walked into the home it was like stepping back twenty years. It was old and in desperate need of some updates. I looked around and asked how long she had lived at this home. The senior woman answered, "Well, my husband and I moved here about five years before I was diagnosed with my breast cancer so nearly fifteen years." I know change is hard for our seniors but this senior woman was in desperate need of a change to living somewhere with less upkeep and lower rent and utilities. It also was easy to see she was in desperate need of dental care to address the pain she was feeling in her mouth.

I asked the senior woman if she had seen a dentist yet and she replied what I thought would be her answer that she had not. I made a call to one of the dentists we use for emergency dental care and was able to get her in for an evaluation the following day. I felt bad even leaving this woman in that pain for the next twelve hours but it was the best the dentist office could do on such short notice. I asked the woman if she would like me to come back to talk after she had seen the dentist but she declined saying, "I would just be sitting here in pain anyway so maybe having you here will help distract me from it."

I asked the senior woman some questions about the home and heard what I had already suspected. The home had some problems that needed to be addressed but the landlord was not willing to pay for any of them. After discussing her five year lease, that was due for renewal in six months, I saw at the next renewal her rent would increase even more. It was time for this senior woman to move into housing suitable for senior citizens. When I suggested this the senior woman looked at me in surprise saying, "I've lived here so long. I would miss this house if I moved." I asked to see the woman's budget and after thoroughly going over the budget she provided I was able to show the senior woman where she could save money with both her utilities and rent, especially once she was approved for housing. I told the senior woman once she received her housing approval we would contact her landlord about getting out of her lease early, especially with the amount of work needing to be done to the house.

We went over her prescription medication costs and I offered some suggestions to try to reduce her costs. She showed me her refrigerator and cabinets, both with little food in them. The woman showed me the older model car in her garage that she used for groceries, church and medical visits. We provided the woman with some gift cards for gas, additional food and toiletries. These were all very gratefully received. What kept bothering me during my whole visit was how the woman could possibly see through her scratched and bent glasses. I finally asked her when the last time she had an eye exam was. The senior woman looked embarrassed as she answered, "Well, it was before my husband died over five years ago. I remember because we both bought glasses together and it was so expensive." I told her it was time she had a vision exam and that we would help her with a pair of glasses. The senior woman tried to decline saying, "No, no you have done too much already. There are a lot of other people that need help besides me." I then told her about all of "You" and how "You" would want her to have new glasses. She finally asked, "Do you think those wonderful people that donate would want me to have new glasses?" and I answered, "They would want you to have new glasses as much as they want you to see the dentist, and as much as they want to help you with your rent and utilities." When I looked at the woman through her scratched and bent glasses I saw she was beginning to cry. She then asked, "Can I give you a hug?" I said of course as I stood up and leaned towards her chair. As I hugged her I held back my own tears as I felt my eyes beginning to well, wanting to stay strong for her. She gave me a hug big enough to share with all of "You".

After my thorough review of this senior woman's situation we helped her with her overdue utilities, rent, food, gas, toiletries, eyeglasses and the much needed pain relief due to her dental visit. After two appointments she was like new and I saw my first smile on this lovely senior woman's face without any pain. The smile was also enhanced by the new scratch free glasses that she wore proudly, without squinting. After several months she was able to move out of her old rental into a small apartment that she could now afford thanks to her housing approval. She was happy to be in a senior complex where she could be more social with other women her age. After a phone call from me her landlord was willing to let her out of her lease early and returned her security deposit as the home had not been repaired by him for years. The senior woman now had a small amount of funds to fall back on so she would not run short on other expenses any time soon. With some help from our volunteers she was able to clean out years of accumulation and pack just what she needed for her move to her

much smaller apartment. The last time I spoke to this senior woman she said, "Please tell those wonderful people how good it feels to no longer be in pain. I also am so grateful to be able to see clearly for the first time in years. The weight of pain and the overwhelming financial problems I was having have been removed thanks to them. I feel like a new woman." That is what we do together. We remove the very real pains and suffering of poverty. We restore lives and bring smiles to the faces of those we help. Thank you and God Bless "You" for making the good works we do together possible.

My dear readers and friends, we have many other fellow creations that need our help and compassion. Helping our fellow creations, our Caring and Sharing, doing our good works, is life changing for those we help. Together "We" need to continue to do our good works that make our mission for God a success. Together "We" make a big difference removing the pains of poverty for our fellow creations.

*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:** The Gallo Family Fund, Family Foundation, Fox Charities, Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust, Martin Business, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schuberth, Unilock, Rhoades Foundation, Kathleen & Brian Hurdis, Sibley-Saltinstall Charitable Foundation, Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, Grunow Family Fund, Brian Pollard, Mark & Sandra Schmitt, David & Shirley Heigl, Beth & Jody Rendall, Donald & Joan Wolfram, Michael & Kathe Beach, Herman & Elizabeth Gudeman, Dorothy Tookey, Gerald & Patricia Miller, William & Esther Merckel, Dawn Miller, Mark & Suzette Bittmann, Carolyn May Essel, Richard Carlson, Walter & Florence Strumpf, Virginia Sammon, Dolores Faltynek, Elkhorn Chemical & Packaging, AptarGroup Charitable Foundation, Shari & James Loback, George & Laurreta Clettenberg, Robert & Patricia Davis, Teresa Hurley, 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.

**Prayer Chain:** 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.

**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)