

Last week marked fourteen years of sharing what we do at The Time Is Now to Help in our weekly column. An idea to inform our communities about the need for poverty relief turned into an opportunity to help not just the 729 people written about over the past years, but thousands of people we have helped thanks to your compassion, generosity, Caring and Sharing.

Over thirty years ago we were looking for a charity that would actually use the funds donated for their actual cause, not their overhead or salaries. We were frustrated when we saw great need but too much red tape for our funds to get to the people we wanted to help. We found many people living in shacks, on park benches and in overcrowded shelters. We found children and the elderly living with the constant pain of hunger. We found the handicapped living without basic needs and resources. I went to each and every place we gave and assessed their needs. When I talked to women with children living in shelters I found they needed diapers and personal hygiene products. When I visited the handicapped I found they did not have supportive wheelchairs, ramps or even clothing. When I found hunger I provided food. The Time Is Now to Help was established so we would be assured that every penny of our own and our donors funds would be put to work immediately to remove the pains of poverty.

While much has changed in our communities during the past fourteen years, the need for poverty relief remains the same. People are still becoming homeless, children are still hungry, senior citizens are still struggling to make ends meet, the handicapped are unable to afford basic needs and working poor families cannot afford rent and other necessities of life. We knew we could never solve the many complex reasons for poverty, but we could ease the pains of living in poverty. And we have done just that thanks to all of "You". "You" have been an integral part of all we do at The Time Is Now to Help. Every one we have comforted and assisted over the past fourteen years was thanks to all of "You".

I founded The Time Is Now to Help over thirty years ago with the following mission: "The Time Is Now exists solely for the purpose of alleviating the suffering of those who find themselves facing economic hardship. The Time Is Now's continuing goal is to make sure every cent donated is utilized to provide goods and services, such as food, clothing, utilities, toiletries, automobile assistance, and shelter assistance to help the extremely poverty-stricken children, senior citizens, disabled, and families live more comfortably, improve their quality of life, and remove their pain and suffering." This continues to be our mission statement and guides all "We" do together.

Prior to the past fourteen years, even before our incorporation in 1989, myself, my wife and a handful of people were all that made up The Time Is Now to Help. We accomplished many great things together but the work load was heavy and we were often lonely in this mission

of providing assistance to those in desperate need. We purchased food, mattresses, diapers, wheel chairs, blankets, sheets, toiletries, toys, clothing and shoes, loaded the trucks and made the deliveries all on our own. We established a food pantry in one of the most impoverished areas. We helped homeless senior citizens, women and children. This was all done with our own funds. Then years later I began receiving letters from people desperate for poverty relief asking for assistance. That was when my mission of bringing relief right to people's homes, or where ever they happened to be living, sometimes tents, sometimes cars, began. When we began sharing one letter a week in the newspaper with all of "You", "You" came forward with your Caring and Sharing hearts and I realized how much more rewarding sharing our mission of love and goodness is.

In the past fourteen years I've realized we not only remove the pains of poverty but we also repair broken hearts and spirits. When someone truly is cold, hungry, physically impaired, it can lead to a broken heart always living in the fear and pains of poverty. Poverty is ruthless and does not care about your age, race, gender, religion, handicap or impairment. Poverty is cruel. Thanks to all of "You" supporting The Time Is Now to Help for the past fourteen years we have been able to provide mending and healing with our love, Caring and Sharing.

Over the past fourteen years I have told everyone we've helped about "You" that make our charity even possible. Here are some of the comments and thanksgiving they have told me to share:

"How can I ever thank all of you for your kindness and generosity towards my children?"

"How can I ever express to all of you how much you have done for my family? I don't think it is even possible."

"The Time Is Now to Helps support has been the biggest blessing of my life. The help provided extended far beyond my financial survival."

"My children were blessed and beaming after a shopping trip for new clothing provided by everyone at The Time Is Now to Help. They were crying happy tears when changing their ragged hand me downs to new clothes that fit."

"When I was told by my church that The Time Is Now to Help is like a guardian angel to the elderly and the handicapped that are destitute, I did not realize how my life was going to be renewed by all of your help. I went from what felt like a bottomless pit of agony to feeling blessed to be alive again."

"When I received a visit I was told about all the people that make up The Time Is Now to Help. I asked God, is this group of angels for real? Through all your love and compassion I found his answer was "Yes."

“Now that I am back on my feet and have been blessed with a new job, I am proud to be giving back to The Time Is Now to Help. I know what your assistance meant to me and I know you will do the same for someone else suffering in poverty just like I was.”

“I know that miracles happen, as God orchestrates them. God continues to use The Time Is Now to Help in the orchestration of healing lives and removing the evil pains of poverty.”

“The words and actions of The Time Is Now to Help are vehicles of hope and healing. Thank you for the hope and healing you gave to my family.”

“As you left from our visit you told me that you were proud of me. When the door closed I began to cry as I realized, in my entire life virtually no one had ever told me that. Until that moment I had little idea how much I needed to hear those encouraging words. I have immeasurable appreciation, respect and love for everyone at The Time Is Now to Help.”

Together we have stood people back up on their feet, we have fed them, clothed them, sheltered them...we have reformulated budgets and helped find jobs. If we try to put into numbers how much assistance we have provided in the fourteen years our letters have been in the newspaper it could put things in perspective of how much we have all done together. We average helping 500 people living in poverty each year so that means 7,000 people have been helped by The Time Is Now to Help in the past fourteen years. 7,000 of our fellow creations have been touched by our caring and sharing assistance.

Thanks to all of “You” we hope to continue our battle against poverty, one letter at a time, for many years to come. The children, senior citizens, working poor families, veterans and the handicapped are all counting on us. We really are their lifeline, often their only hope. If it wasn't for all of “You” and The Time Is Now to Help what would have happened to those thousands of our fellow creations living in the pains of poverty? Where would they be? How many children would have gone hungry? How many senior citizens would have been living in the cold and the dark? I pray there is never a day when we have to answer those questions.

Thank you for your continued support of the charity work we all do together. It is a group effort, a labor of love and a blessing to many suffering in poverty in our communities. 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:** Family Foundation, The Gallo Family Fund, Scott & Lisa Stearns, Fox Charities, Martin Business, John Stensland & Family, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schuberth, Christine Adams, Thomas Morrissy, Black Point Estate, Aurora Health Care Employee Partnership Campaign, James & Shari Loback, John & Marian McClellan, John & Virginia Sullivan, Dorothy Tookey, Robert & Patricia Davis, Wingfield Watson Trust, Karen Anderson, John & Kathy Poiron, Denise Hubbard, Mary Jo Milazzo, John & Vickie Geier, Margaret & Randall Smith, 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:** Les & Pauline Malsch in honor of Al & Geri Hinton.

**Memorials:** Mary Dunham in memory of Vera Lawton. Daniel & Donna Casey in memory of their sister Eileen. Les & Pauline Malsch in memory of Mark Malsch. Bill Wells in memory of Mary Osborne.

**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)