

Dear W.C.,

My son and daughter-in-law were recently in a terrible car accident that nearly took their lives. They were hit by a man driving under the influence of drugs. He was using prescription pain medications that he should not have been taking in the first place. Both my son and daughter-in-law were in intensive care for a long time. They both have had multiple surgeries and my son contracted an infection and then pneumonia. I have been caring for my two grandchildren and granddogs for the past few months since this happened. Their insurance is covering most of their expenses but there are some things that are just not covered. My son is self employed and my daughter-in-law was only working part-time. They had some savings but that is gone already as I used it to pay their rent, food for the family and utility bills. I have been using my social security to provide other necessities for the children and to pay for gas for the trips back and forth to the hospital in Milwaukee, but I live on a very fixed income so this has stretched all my resources. Even though I am staying at their home right now I still have to pay my own rent and utility bills. I am so worried they will get out of the hospital and not have a home to return to. I know you don't help with medical bills but if you could help with some of the other expenses I would be very grateful.

Dear Readers,

As the opioid/drug epidemic becomes more and more prevalent in every community throughout our country we have become more aware of how it affects everyone. We used to only hear about drunk drivers but now we have to be even more concerned over the amount of drugged drivers we are sharing the roads with.

I went to visit the woman that wrote this letter of request at the address of her son and daughter-in-laws home. I had called the woman to set up a time to visit as I did not know when she would be there due to the hospital visits and children's schedules. I was met at the door by a woman that looked exhausted and drained. I know from my own experience how tiring and emotionally draining constant trips to and from the hospital to visit loved ones can be. Doing this for several months, along with the worry over their recovery and caring for her two grandchildren, had taken a toll on her. She had good reason to be weary.

She held the screen door open for me and invited me inside. The home was comfortable and had a nice homey feeling. It was not large but the woman told me it had three bedrooms, just enough for their family. The woman explained she was staying at the home to care for her ten year old and twelve year old grandchildren. They were outside in the yard with friends while I was visiting to allow us some privacy to talk. I looked out the window into the yard and saw several children playing in the yard with two big dogs running around them, obviously enjoying the excitement the children were providing. I had to smile looking at the joy they were sharing with the children as they joined in their play. I knew that joy could

have been so easily taken from these children due to one driver choosing to get behind the wheel while impaired. The grandmother said, "Those dogs are a handful but my son and his wife, and the children love them. I think they have really helped the children get through this difficult time. When the accident first happened the kids were in shock. We all were. Just having to keep the routine of walking the dogs and getting them outside helped to return some normalcy to their lives while we wait for their parents to get home."

I asked about the progress of the son and daughter-in-law and learned they were both in a rehabilitation facility now. The grandmother added, "My daughter-in-law will be home in probably a week. My son will be a little longer due to the infections and pneumonia he had. They were a big setback in his recovery. I'm just so happy they will be home soon. There was a time I didn't even think they would ever come home..." The grandmother could not even finish her sentence as she broke down in tears. All the weeks of worry and stress poured down her face in tears. Tears she said she always kept hidden from her family as she worried in private, not wanting to upset the grandchildren or her son and daughter-in-law.

Once she was composed we went on to talk about the accident and I learned some more details, including the driver of the other vehicle had been uninsured. The son and daughter-in-laws insurance was paying for many of the expenses but not everything, just as the woman had stated in her letter. As I looked over the financial documents the woman had provided I could see they were waiting on several claims to be approved. I asked the woman what were her main concerns. She stated they had been coming up short with food and was even worried about the pet food for the dogs. She added, "I have to feed the children before the pets but I know they are an important part of this family and their eventual recovery. They will bring my son and daughter-in-law great comfort when they get home. I feel presumptuous asking but could I ask for food for all of us?" I got up again to look out the window at the children and happy dogs, now sitting between the children taking turns kissing their smiling faces, and knew the grandmother was right. They were needed at this family right now. They would help this family heal and hopefully once again become active and happy. I turned back to the grandmother and said, "You are not being presumptuous at all. You are right in knowing what this family needs and right now they need food and the unconditional love of these two dogs." The grandmother showed me her first smile since I had arrived.

After finishing going over their financial needs I made many notes. After careful evaluation we provided grocery gift cards including food for the dogs that was donated from Petco via the food pantry, gas gift cards, a car repair for the grandmother's car as it was their only means of transportation for now, gift cards for clothing and school supplies for the children and rent and utility assistance for the grandmother. The grandmother also shared with me she wanted to move in with her son's family to help care for them and to make their financial

situation a little easier. She showed me the enclosed porch she planned on making into her bedroom. It was a small room and she would be in need of a twin bed as she only had a very old double bed at her apartment. We provided her with a new twin bed to help with her move.

Before I left I knew I had to meet the children and two dogs. The grandmother opened the back door and immediately we were surrounded by the children and dogs, all curious to meet the new person in their home. Once I met all of them, and provided some belly rubs and back scratches to the friendly dogs that would not let me leave until I gave them some attention too, I said my goodbyes. The grandmother reached out and gave me a hug, whispering in my ear, "We can't thank you enough. You have made my job as grandma and caregiver so much easier. God Bless you." I returned the hug whispering, "I will let everyone who supports us know how grateful you are. They would want to say God Bless you too."

Several weeks later I called the grandmother to see how they were doing. She told me how they were doing so much better due to our help. She had been able to bring her daughter-in-law home safely thanks to our car repairs and the gas gift cards had helped her to continue to visit her son as he struggled with his painful inpatient physical therapy. The grandmother was very happy to report they now thought both the son and daughter-in-law would make a full recovery and be able to eventually return to their jobs. She told me how she had been able to get out of her lease a little early and she and the children had moved her few belongings to her son's house. She said she was sleeping so much better on the twin bed we had provided that she felt like a new person. Gone was the physical exhaustion she had been struggling with every day. Gone was the anxiety over how she would feed and pay the bills for her son's family and her own expenses. The insurance company was beginning to pay some of the expenses allowing her to use her small income to help them until they again returned to their incomes.

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. Please remember the new Fox Charities Summer 2017 \$25,000 Matching Grant. Every dollar you donate will be matched by Fox Charities, doubling your donation. 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: Fox Charities, Kune's Family Foundation, Mark & Natalie Reno, Martin Business, John Stensland & Family, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schuberth, Jeffrey Martin, Benevity Causes, Thrivent Choice Program, Frank Buschauer, William Davit, William & Beth Norton, Teresa Hurley, Joy Ignasiak, Duane DeYoung, Karin Collamore, Gregory Swanson, Richard & Christine Costa, E. & Barbara Andres, Gerald & Marilyn Wilkin, Jacob & Janice Friesema, Jeffrey Bronk, Violet De Wind, 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 donations were given in loving memory of Wayne Perkins: Shawn & Carrie Vorpapel, Tom & Barbara Kwiatkowski, Muriel Thompson, Dodd & Kathryn Davey, Virginia Paulsen, Kathryn Frederick, Merlyn & Dixie McConnell, Thomas & Tamara Larwa, Robert Vail, Walworth Landing, Dunn Lumber & True Value, Dennis & Evelyn Schulz, Mark & Lora Lehmann, Ellen & Ed Zitzler, Dale & Gail Folkers, Kenneth & Joyce Pagel, Dennis & Carol Frederick, Rev. Mark & Mary Ann Moller-Gunderson, Anders & Lu Anne Pearce, Dale & Monica Albrecht, Bruce Reek, Larry Kulik, James & Milissa Senft, Robert & Patricia Davis, Cyndee Sentieri and Chris Dierks. The estate of William & Mary Osborn, David Osborn and Valerie Lincoln in memory of Mary Osborn.

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.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org