

Dear W.C.,

I have a friend that is struggling right now. She has several disabilities that keep her from working more than part-time. Her roommate left last month without her knowledge, taking her rent money and even some of her furniture. She cannot locate her and has been left with the rent and utility bills. The roommate left while she was at work, taking most of the furniture, including her bed. She even stole some cash she had been saving for her portion of the rent she had hidden in her room. My friend told me she had suspicions her roommate had begun to use drugs. She tried talking to her about it right before she left, wanting to help her. Please consider helping my friend. She is a good person and before this was always helping others. This has set her back more than just financially. Her trust in people has been tested.

Dear Readers,

I hear so many people comment how our world has become so inconsiderate and mean spirited recently. There are times I cannot argue with them. I see examples of what they are saying almost daily in my charity work, including this woman's experience with her roommate. Yet I also have almost daily contact with good people, people that truly care about their neighbors, people that are trying to make our world a better place by helping others and by even contacting us to help a friend or neighbor in need. Those are the kind of people that make my mission to remove the pains of poverty so much more fulfilling.

I called the friend that had written the letter requesting our assistance for the disabled woman. We spoke on the phone for a long time and I learned many details on the disabled woman's ordeal. She told me how the disabled woman had found the roommate online and with her trusting nature had been taken advantage of. The friend continued to tell me how hurt the woman had been by the betrayal both financially and emotionally. I felt certain she would benefit from our intervention and assistance so I set up a time to meet them both at the disabled woman's apartment. I dislike defining this woman by her disabilities so going forward in this column I will only refer to her as "woman".

I met the friend in the parking lot and after our introductions we walked together to the woman's apartment. The friend lightly knocked on the door, telling me how loud noises and bright lights affected the woman as she suffered from debilitating migraines. We waited patiently for the friend to open the door as I had been informed she walked with a profound limp due to a birth defect.

When the woman opened the door I noted the happiness on her face when she saw her friend was there to visit. The woman then looked at me and was obviously confused over who I was. The friend introduced me saying, "Remember, I told you about The Time Is Now to Help? I told you I had written a letter asking for help with your rent." After introducing me

the woman invited us inside. The apartment was dimly lit but even that couldn't hide the lack of furniture. There was a folding chair and a TV tray along with an old cot set up in the room. The woman went to get another folding chair for us to sit on but the friend quickly stepped in to help and retrieved the chair from the kitchen.

The friend asked how the woman was feeling as she said during one of her migraines she would not be able to communicate that well. The woman said she had been headache free for three days and it had been a blessing. The woman said, "I am so happy I have been able to go to work for a few days now. It really helps." The woman told me about her part-time job and while she worked for very low wages she also was given the flexibility to stay home when one of her headaches accompanied by vertigo struck. The woman told me, "I can spend two or more days in my dark room unable to move when one I get one of my headaches. I can't even get up because the dizziness and nausea is so bad." The woman continued to tell me some more information about her disability and her lower limb disorder caused by her mother drinking alcohol during her pregnancy. The woman said, "My mother was an alcoholic and she died by the time I was eighteen. I have been on my own since then but to be honest I was on my own or caring for her before then anyway."

The woman told me she was now in her thirties and had been managing fine until deciding to take in the roommate. She said, "I had a roommate five years ago that was great. She was honest and helpful. After two years living together she got married and moved out. I thought this roommate would be the same. She told me how much she needed the room and how she had been homeless. I felt so sorry for her. I thought I could help her. I had no idea I was letting a drug addict into my apartment." I could see she was angry and hurt.

She told me how she had also wanted to be able to save a little money each month by taking in a roommate. The woman said, "I can get by each month but I never have enough funds for the dentist or even to get coffee if I want. I have to watch every penny. I thought having a roommate would help me save for those things while I helped them get back on their feet too. I was so wrong."

I asked to see her budget to verify her financial situation. She was truly just getting by each month. Having lost her rent money the previous month, when it had been stolen from the box she had kept hidden in her closet, had been a big setback. I saw the overdue utility bill and rent notice. The woman sat before me hanging her head in shame. I could see she was trying to hide the tears that fell down her face. I told her, "Don't let this one incident of betrayal define you. You have managed fine for a long time. You opened up your heart and home to someone that did not deserve it. They are the ones that should be ashamed, not you." The woman wiped away her tears and I saw a brief smile. She asked, "Do you ever feel this way after helping someone that maybe doesn't deserve it? Has that ever happened to you?" I said,

“Of course it has. That is how I learned from my mistakes and made new policies for our charity. You just need to make new policies for yourself and how you will let people in your life in the future.” The woman said, “I like that. I thought at first I would never trust anyone again. But you are right. Not everyone is like my last roommate. There are some good people in the world, like you and my dear friend here that wrote to you, but I just have to be careful how I open myself up to them.” I couldn’t agree more.

After our long conversation I took a look around the apartment. It was tidy but every room was nearly empty. I made a list of the items needed, along with the overdue rent and utilities. A new bed, some furniture, food, bedding, dishes, pans and even a vacuum were needed. These were items that were taken by the roommate and so hard for her to replace. As I wrote down each item, saying them aloud to the two women, they both kept saying, “Oh my. Thank you, thank you.” I finally stopped after the third time they said this and we all began to laugh. The woman said, “It feels so good to laugh again, and to know there are good people in the world. I really am so very grateful.” I told her about all of “You” and she said, “Tell them I said oh my, thank you, thank you.” We all began to laugh again.

The following day I called to arrange some deliveries but was saddened to learn she was suffering one of her devastating migraines. She could barely whisper, asking me to call back the next day. When I called the next day she was able to speak and even able to schedule the deliveries for her bed, a used couch, kitchen table and chairs. We provided some gift cards for food as she told me she had to follow a special diet for her birth defects and headaches. She was so grateful to finally have the proper food in her refrigerator and cupboards once more. I stopped by to visit again the following week and was happy to see she was well and her apartment was much more comfortable with the addition of the furniture, household necessities and bed. The friend met us there as well and she again walked around the apartment saying, “Oh my.” We all again laughed over this and as we said our goodbyes the woman gave me a hug, saying, “Please, please thank everyone for saving me.” That is what we together have done again this week, saved one of our fellow creations from the pains and suffering of poverty.

As our summer is quickly going by we continue to have many people coming to us in desperate need, living in fear, trying to survive without the necessities of life. As we continue to work very hard verifying the genuine need of good people, we also need your continued support. Together “We” need to carry on 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. 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, Martin Business, John Stensland & Family, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schuberth, The Harold & Bernice DeWeerd Family Foundation, Jeffrey Martin, Jack Fogle Memorial Foundation, Judy Dishneau, John & Sally Dicmas, William & Jean Isaacson, David & Shirley Heigl, Dorothy Tookey, Roselyn McHugh, Pat Wynn, Denise Hubbard, M. & C. Garibaldi, John & Kathy Poiron, Shari & James Loback, Vito & Betty Licari, Joseph & Karen Cerniglia, Margaret Downing, 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:** Kathy Rodgers in honor of Richard Driehaus' Birthday.

**Memorials:** Margo Goldberg in memory of Barry Goldberg. The estate of William & Mary Osborn, David Osborn and Valerie Lincoln in memory of Mary Osborn. Melissa Gehrke 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](http://www.timeisnowtohelp.org)