

As I watched the news this past week I couldn't help but feel incredible sadness and compassion for our fellow Americans in Texas. I prayed they would be spared what the weather forecasters were predicting. The stories of loss were devastating. The stories of heroism were inspiring. I also was encouraged by the overwhelming generosity and goodness in people that came to their assistance. They will need this support in the coming months as they begin the slow process of rebuilding their lives once more. Together we will continue to do our part of helping our fellow creations by removing the pains of poverty.

We received great news this week from Richard Driehaus stating he will once again be providing a \$30,000 Matching Grant to begin immediately. This is such wonderful news for the many people that have been waiting for our assistance. His incredible generosity to our charity work, matched by all of your donations, has been instrumental in our ability to provide food, utility assistance, rent, toiletries, beds, car repairs, gas, dental care, glasses, clothing, shoes, beds, household necessities and so much more to over a thousand of our fellow creations in our communities.

Since 2004 Richard has supported our mission, knowing every dollar of his funds and the matching funds are used for those most in need in our communities. We do not use any of your donations for overhead, salaries or expenses. Your donation is used to provide the assistance you read about each week in our newspaper column. These are real people, children attending our schools, senior citizens and the handicapped that could be your neighbor or someone you see at church.

This matching grant could not be more desperately needed. Unfortunately, even when our funding decreases we still receive more and more letters, emails and phone calls concerning people in desperate need. Just yesterday we received not one but three referrals for women with young children living without electricity and water. We received four letters asking for car repairs so people do not lose their jobs. Two people looking for dental care and countless others in need of multiple areas of assistance. As we painstakingly research each request we put the letters in order according to date received and level of need. It pains us when we cannot help everyone that qualifies for our special caring and sharing.

When we receive a second letter or email questioning why we have not responded to their pleas for help we then have the painful task of telling people, "Sorry but there was someone that was in an even worse situation than you are. We are so sorry but we are out of funds at this time. Can you wait a little longer?" Often times that wait can mean eviction, job loss or living without utilities. That is what keeps us up at night. That is what often breaks our hearts. That is why we are so grateful when "You" provide the donation that enables us to prevent that eviction, job loss or utility disconnection.

This past month we have helped several people struggling due to illness and disability. An older disabled woman struggles to get by after the recent flooding ruined most of her belongings. Food, toiletries, clothing and household necessities were provided as she too works to put her life back in order.

A young family reeling due to the father's sudden life threatening illness was helped with mortgage payments, utility assistance and school supplies as they work through the immediate challenges placed upon them. They are working hard to not only achieve a full recovery for the father but also to prevent the loss of their home and keep their two children fed. Their immediate needs were met thanks to "You" and your generous support.

A woman was shocked when her husband left her and her young daughter unexpectedly. They were going to be evicted and their utilities were already disconnected. "You" made sure they did not suffer even more as she successfully works to put her life back in order.

A senior citizen was provided new glasses after his were broken in a car accident. A young woman whose car broke down on her way to work was saved from losing her job and then subsequent homelessness when we had her car repaired. A homeless woman we had been sheltering in a motel was provided first month's rent and security deposit once she found a steady job, ensuring she did not become homeless once more. A struggling widow was provided food and toiletries. She also received pet food thanks to our pet care donors.

These are just a few of the 44 people helped last month. Each of them has a different reason for their recent struggle. Each of them shared tears of gratitude for all we did together to remove the pains and stress of impending poverty. Thanks to the Richard H. Driehaus \$30,000 Matching Grant we will be able to help so many more as they face the challenges life has brought them. Whether it is due to financial desperation of the working poor, illness or disability, we will be there to answer their request thanks to Richard and all of "You".

Please continue to pray for our fellow Americans as they face the coming weeks of recovery from Hurricane Harvey. It will be a long and challenging road, not unlike the road so many of the people we help face. It will be costly and exhausting for all involved. But with the support of our great nation, and the many good people that live here, we hope those affected will feel the love and prayers from all of us. Not unlike the people we help feel when "We" share our love and support with them.

Please donate knowing every penny you give will be matched by the Richard H. Driehaus \$30,000 Matching grant, doubling your donation. As we continue to work very hard verifying the genuine need of good people, we 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, Leroy & Barbara Madsen, Alan Cornue, ITW Foundation, Aurora Health Care Employee Partnership Campaign, Bernd & Christine Kampe, Joanne Zeasman, John & Diane Dahl, Phyllis Heinrich, Robert Ribordy, John Race, George & Laretta Clettenberg, Gerald & Marilyn Wilkin, Alden United Methodist Church, Gene Krauklis, Shawna Kneipper, Lisa Loepke, Mary Cucchi, Heidi Hall, Marilee Peppey, Jeanne McDonald, Tom Wigton, Laura Manley, Paul Symons, Kathleen Herr, Lucy Lucia, Estelle Reader, 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 in memory of Maurice Christenson: Ira & Phyllis Christenson, Jr., Margaret & Randall Smith and Grace Churchill.

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, Jayden, Santana, Alex, Lily, Kaitlyn, Kynesha, Sheila, Adrian & Marilyn.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org