

Dear W.C.,

There is a family with three children I am very worried about. The children go to the school I work at. I know the mother and she is a very good parent. The father is another story. There have been a few incidents of him getting arrested for drinking and driving and the mother even had a restraining order against him last year. They reconciled after a few months but now he has left her and the children. One of the children told me yesterday that they do not have any lights or water at their house. I am friends with the mother and called her immediately after school to ask her about the situation but her phone seems to be disconnected. I know she must really be struggling and am very worried about them. Please call me and I can give you their address and more information.

Dear Readers,

I called the woman that wrote this letter of request immediately upon reading this letter. Knowing the mother and children's utilities were already disconnected I knew eviction and hunger would soon follow. When I called the woman she answered immediately.

I asked the woman for as much information as she could share with me. She was worried she may have over stepped her boundaries as an employee of the school, not wanting to jeopardize her own employment. I reassured her that her referral would probably save this family from a lot of suffering in the coming weeks or even months of living without lights, heat, water, refrigeration and eventually even shelter. She said, "If I can prevent these good kids and mother from going through that then it is worth any trouble I could possibly get into."

The woman filled me in on the relationship the mother and father had, including many incidents of verbal abuse and threats towards the mother and children. The woman said, "The mother came to me several times telling me things in confidence about her relationship with her husband. When they were separated, and she had filled a restraining order against him, I told her it was the smartest thing she could have done. She did not have a job though and she soon gave in to his demands to reconcile just so she did not end up in the situation she is in now." I asked why the woman did not have a job and the woman told me the husband had forbade it, wanting to keep her dependent on him for his income.

I listened to several more disturbing incidents of the fathers control and physical abuse and became more and more concerned. I told the woman I would like to pay a visit to this mother and children as soon as possible. She replied, "Well, I can meet you there now if you are available." I agreed and I was happy to have her accompany me.

I met the woman at the rental home and immediately noticed the dark interior. There is quietness around a home that has no utilities. There is no noise from a television, air-

conditioning, and appliances, other than the sounds of the residents inside there is nothing but silence. I felt that silence as we waited for the mother to answer the door. I watched as a person peeked around the edge of a curtain, probably closed to try and hide the obvious utility disconnection. When the mother recognized the woman by her front door she immediately came to open the door.

There was an awkward moment while the woman introduced me, telling the mother why I was there and her concerns for her and the children. The mother first tried to deny what her child had shared with the woman, her face turning red with embarrassment as she tried to make an excuse. We both watched as the mother's face went from embarrassment to tears of fear and shame. It was as if she had been holding in all the stress and worry of her financial distress and could no longer hold it in. The woman standing next to me went to the mother and gave her a long hug, letting the mother cry on her shoulder as she rubbed her back and said words of comfort. After a few minutes the mother said, "Please come in. The children are at my mother's right now taking baths. She will be dropping them off in about an hour. We can talk before they get here."

The woman led us into the quiet house and led us to the kitchen that was brighter due to several south facing windows that brought in the sunlight. We looked around the kitchen with dark appliances and silent refrigerator. Once we confirmed the mother didn't mind talking freely in front of the woman that had referred her I got right to work telling her about our charity and how we together help people in desperate need. The friend asked, "Do you feel you are in desperate need?" The woman answered, "I know we are in desperate need. My husband did this just to show me how much control he has. I was finally getting ready to leave him due to him hitting me and his constant drinking that made it even worse. He decided to leave first just to show me how hard it will be for me and the children. What kind of man does that to his own children?" The friend answered, "The kind of man that does not deserve a wife and children."

I looked around the room and noted that they still had their natural gas connected, allowing the mother to heat water on the stove and cook food. Their food was limited to items that could be heated but did not need refrigeration. The mother had seen to it that her children had clean clothes for school by going to the Laundromat and had used what little money was left in their checking account to purchase food. Now that the money was nearly gone the natural gas would most likely be disconnected next if we did not intervene.

I went through the woman's bills and checking account, I explained to her that was the best way for me to see where her money was being used and what was needed. I saw the overdue rent notice and late natural gas bill. I looked at the budget the woman had tried to put together once her husband had left and made some suggestions to help her budget going

forward. I then asked the mother about getting a job. The mother nodded her head in agreement as I spoke on the importance of her finding employment as soon as possible. I also gave her some suggestions on where to go for other assistance. The mother took notes and promised to carry out these things. We spoke about her job experience and I was pleased to hear she had an excellent education and several years of good job experience before she married her husband. Many people would be surprised that a highly educated woman would allow herself to become controlled by an abusive husband, yet I see this enough times to know it happens.

I wrote out a plan to help this mother and children and went over it line by line. The first thing we would provide would be a hot meal for the children when they arrived home from their grandmothers. A volunteer would be dropping off food before I left so this family could have an almost normal meal together. The rent on the house she was living in was not outrageous but she would do better to get into a more reasonable apartment that did not have her husband's name on the lease. I asked about the grandmother and she told me she could not live with her as she lived in senior housing and only had a one bedroom apartment she did not want to give up. I had several apartments in mind and her friend offered to call them for her as she did not have a phone to call them herself. I arranged for her to get a cheap cell phone so she would have a way to communicate with her mother, the school, job interviews and the assistance she would possibly apply for.

We brought their utilities up to date and paid for the following month to allow her time to move into a reasonable rental. We did the same with their rent. We provided grocery and gas gift cards. After looking over the old car her husband had left behind, he had taken the better car, I saw it needed some repairs to keep the mother and children safe in their trips to grocery stores and hopefully soon a job for the mother. It was obvious the husband had not cared about the welfare of his children as they would be riding in a car in desperate need of brakes and new tires.

We soon heard the volunteer arrive with several bags of hot food and some nonperishable items. Soon after she left we heard the grandmother pull into the driveway and children's voices outside. I watched through the kitchen window as the children all hugged and kissed the grandmother and were walking to the house. I said, "Tomorrow we will get your utilities on and get your car in for service. I want you to get your phone and then begin your job search and do what you need to do to help yourself and your children." I saw the sudden spring of tears in the mother's eyes. Before the children came in the door she said, "You and everyone at The Time Is Now to Help has saved us. We would have been living like this until we had to move into my car. You have saved my children from so much suffering and embarrassment. How can I ever thank you?" I said, "By following through with doing the things I suggested. This is your way out of this situation."

Just then the children burst in the door, excited to see their mother and surprised to see she had company. After she introduced us as her friends, the woman that had sat through our whole home visit got to her feet and again wrapped her arms around the mother. This time the friend needed consoling as she tried to hide her tears from the children. The mother comforted her saying, “Don’t worry we will be okay thanks to you and The Time Is Now to Help.”

Several months later they were indeed okay. The mother and children had moved into an affordable apartment complex where their utilities and rent would be much lower. The mother had begun her first job in over eight years. This job would grow with her and she was enjoying every minute of it. The husband would soon be an ex-husband and she had been able to begin legal proceedings to get her much needed child support. These things, along with our caring and sharing support, had turned the mother from an abused and poverty stricken mother into a happy, confident mother. This is all thanks to “You” and the support you allowed us to provide. Thank you and God Bless you.

Please donate knowing every dollar you give will be matched by the Richard H. Driehaus \$30,000 Matching grant, doubling your donation, removing twice as much pain, sorrow and fear of poverty. 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.

Please vote daily for our founder Sal Dimiceli, Sr. as he is a 2017 finalist in the Realtor Magazine Good Neighbor Award. If he wins Web Choice we can receive an additional donation for poverty relief. Vote at [www.realtor.com/goodneighbor](http://www.realtor.com/goodneighbor).

*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.

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**Memorials:** Lorraine Sharkey in memory of her son. Mike & Sue Borden in memory of Milo Nimmer.

**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](http://www.timeisnowtohelp.org)