

Barnabas \$67,000 Matching Grant = \$134,000 in Assistance

Over 200 people have been blessed by the assistance provided thanks to the Barnabas \$67,000 Matching Grant, matched by all of “You”. We are amazed by your generosity, matched by the generous Barnabas donors, which allowed us to provide \$134,000 in poverty relief. Every penny of this matching grant was used to help our fellow creations in desperate need. Together we have prevented homelessness, lack of utilities, and lack of transportation, toiletries and basic human needs. We have removed pain due to lack of dental care and hunger. We have provided glasses for children. There are so many ways we have helped to make the lives of the poverty stricken more comfortable thanks to “You”. The compassion and generosity shared by the Barnabas donors and your heartfelt matching donations has been felt throughout our communities.

We were ready for the challenge the Barnabas donors provided of completing this matching grant by the end of 2017. We are proud to say it is our largest matching grant to date and was completed in eleven weeks. That was eleven weeks of hard work getting the word out about this matching grant opportunity and making sure your donations, matched by Barnabas, were used to help our good fellow Americans that have fallen on hard times. These weeks were filled with visits, volunteer coordination, phone calls, food and furniture deliveries, budgets, car repair arrangements and all office related activities that keep our charity running. After all our efforts we are happy to share where every penny of your donation was spent. We feel these breakdowns give a clear picture of how every dollar of your donations are put to work. We wish we could share the story of every person helped but that would take more space than this column allows. The Barnabas donors and all of “You” made the following assistance possible:

THIS IS HOW ALL OF US HELPED:

RENT/SHELTER = \$62,210.88

Thanks to all of “You” and the Barnabas donors a disabled woman and her son were provided emergency shelter in a hotel until we were able to find them an affordable rental. A senior citizen living in an unfit home she could no longer afford was helped with moving to a first floor apartment where she can safely maintain both physically and financially. Two grandmothers raising grandchildren were helped with first month’s rent and security deposit after they had to move to larger apartments to accommodate the children. Single parents, both mothers and fathers, struggle to keep up when their co-parents neglect to make child support payments. Several families living in basements or sleeping on family and friends couches were helped to move into their own apartments that their budgets allow. People that had lost their jobs, or were lacking in funds due to seasonal jobs they are not able to work in these extreme winter conditions, were helped with their rent to prevent homelessness for

their families until they were assisted to find jobs that would support them in the future. These are just a few of the 123 adults, seniors and children helped with shelter assistance thanks to “You” and the Barnabas Matching Grant donors.

UTILITIES = \$16,300 = Electric: \$10,300, Gas: \$6,000

Utility bills continue to rise and as we enter the harsh winter season many will be able to keep their heat at a comfortable level and keep appliances and lights on thanks to all of “You” and the Barnabas donors. Removing the stress and worry over utility disconnections due to high winter bills helps senior citizens, working poor families, single mothers and veterans keep their thermostats at a healthy temperature. We began this matching grant on October 15th. On November 1st the utility Winter Protection plan went into effect. This means for people that were already living with disconnected utilities on November 1st, they would remain off until their overdue balance was paid. For those that had their utilities on but have since fallen behind, they will be disconnected after March 31st if their high bills are not paid. We have helped our fellow creations suffering due to both already disconnected and future disconnection. The distress of lack of utilities has been removed from their lives. God Bless “You” and the Barnabas donors for providing the blessing of heat, lights, appliances and all things electric and gas utilities provide to the poverty stricken in our communities.

FOOD = \$8,359.09

Food was graciously provided with gift cards and emergency volunteer food deliveries. When we find empty refrigerators and cabinets, we are there to deliver life giving food. Many tears were shed over the removal of hunger in our communities. Many senior citizens, women and children had not eaten a good meal in a very long time. We helped children, seniors, single parents, and the handicapped fill their cupboards and refrigerators with healthy, life giving food. When people cannot make it to food pantries due to lack of transportation, poor weather, handicap, illness or scheduling conflicts due to jobs and medical care, we are there to help. God Bless all of “You” and the Barnabas donors for removing hunger in our communities.

TRANSPORTATION = \$28,750.01

A car was purchased and provided for a single working mother. Several months of car payments were made for three working single mothers with children. If these cars were repossessed these mothers would be in far worse shape trying to work their way out of poverty. Twelve cars were repaired preventing job loss and allowing necessary transportation for medical care, food and other needs. Gas gift cards were provided to ease the additional expense of gas. Many of our fellow creations have to travel for their jobs and medical care for cancer, heart disease and other serious medical conditions that require specialists not always available in our neighborhoods. Tires were purchased for three vehicles that had been dangerously sliding off the roads or spinning their tires. A tow truck was called for two

vehicles that could not even make it to the repair shop but were found to be worthwhile to repair. The gratitude for the safe travel new tires and repairs provided was again heartfelt and tear filled. Thank God all of us together, with the Barnabas donors, were there to ease the stress of lack of safe transportation.

FURNITURE = \$2,300

Furniture was provided for a mother and five children that were referred to us by protective services after leaving an abusive relationship. The mother and children were very grateful to no longer be living in constant fear and to also have a place to sit, eat and put their clothing. The senior citizen moved to an apartment from her old rundown home was provided a clean couch, chairs, table, bedroom set and dresser. These touches of home have made it easier to put their previous lives of suffering behind them. Thank you to the Barnabas donors and all of "You" for helping to make an empty cold apartment into a warm comfortable home.

HOUSEHOLD NECESSITIES = \$3,612.65

Towels, blankets, sheets, pillows, dishes, pots and pans and cleaning supplies were provided for those found to be living without. Beds were made comfortable with the addition of sheets, blankets and pillows. Vacuums and mops help to keep a home clean. The same mother and children that received furniture also received all the above household necessities. When they had left the abusive conditions they were living in, they were lucky to leave with what they were able to carry. Many senior citizens, the handicapped, veterans and working poor families were found living without these items. Thanks to all of "You" and the Barnabas donors we were able to provide them with these much appreciated household necessities.

HOME REPAIRS = \$4,416

A senior woman living in a home damaged by last summer's storms was provided help when her insurance did not cover all the repairs. She was living in a home with cracked windows, water damage and in need of roof repairs. After our careful consideration and review we found the best remedy for her situation was to help her with these home repairs. Once they were completed she would be able to live independently and safely in her own home. Thank you to the Barnabas donors and all of "You" for providing this caring and sharing assistance.

TOILETRIES = \$2,458.98

Toilet paper, tooth brushes, tooth paste, shampoo, soap, diapers, feminine hygiene products, etc. are always highly appreciated items. Most people struggling to pay their rent and utilities will give up toiletries and food in order to prevent homelessness. Senior citizens, children, infants, the handicapped are all so appreciative of these items. Your donations matched by the Barnabas donors provided personal hygiene and self-confidence for many turning to The Time Is Now to Help for assistance.

PAYDAY (PREDATOR) LOANS = \$1,742.39

Once again one of our fellow creations was lured into the trap of a Payday loan. When you are desperate due to illness, car repair or other emergency event, a payday loan can seem like a good way to get you through the unexpected expense. The interest rates can vary from 60%-600+%. Even though these predator loans are illegal in numerous states they are still allowed in Wisconsin. Each year these loans affect many working poor, the handicapped and elderly. In other states it is illegal to garnish the disabled and elderly peoples Social Security payments. Here it is legally permitted for the deprivation of the meager funds these fellow creations collect. They are then unable to pay for rent, utilities and food. That is why they are called predator loans. As soon as you sign up for one of these predator loans you are stuck with an extremely high interest rate and an even bigger debt problem that is impossible to get out of. We together stepped in to remove that fear and growing expense for a single mother that had missed work due to a health crisis. Again we provided our financial counseling and she has vowed to never again fall victim to a predatory payday loan scheme.

DENTAL & GLASSES ASSISTANCE = \$3,850

The most tearfully received assistance is usually dental care. If you have ever had dental pain you will understand why. Nine women and children were provided dental care. An additional woman was provided with help obtaining dentures. These would give her the ability to get a better job and improve her self-esteem, in addition to removing the horrible pain she had been living in. We also provided glasses for two children that were struggling to see in school. All these people cried with relief thanks to your generous donations, matched by the Barnabas \$67,000 Matching Grant that provided this assistance.

GRAND TOTAL: \$134,000

Every dollar "You" donated, matched by the Barnabas \$67,000 Matching Grant, was used to assist the poverty stricken. Thanks to all of "You" and the Barnabas donors our mission to alleviate the pains of poverty has been a life saver and a blessing to many.

Bernie & Nancy Labovitch have read our columns and seen our good works for many years. This year they wanted to do more and have stepped in to provide the Bernie & Nancy Labovitch \$36,000 Matching Grant. Every dollar you donate at this time will be matched by the Bernie & Nancy Labovitch \$36,000 Matching Grant, not only doubling your donation but also doubling your poverty assistance. The children, the handicapped, the elderly, veterans, those that cannot fend for themselves, those living in desperate need will be crying happy tears of relief thanks to all of "You", the Labovitch's and The Time Is Now to Help working together to provide poverty relief. Together "We" make a positive change removing the pains of poverty for our fellow creations. Thank you and God Bless you for your support!

Health & Happiness, Love & God Bless Everyone, 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: Barnabas Matching Grant donors, Bernard & Nany Labovitch, Clarence & Marilyn Schawk Family Foundation, Green Bay Packers Foundation, National Association of Realtors, Electronic Specialties, Kunes Family Foundation, Unilock, John & Valerie Lincoln, Mary Kay Ring, Jackie Leedle, Martin Business, John Stensland & Family, Steven & Deidred Trumble, Thomas Morrissy, The Dan & Donna Casey Family Foundation, Peter & Anna Vanderveld Foundation, Joseph & Barbara Moos, Albert & Ellen Burnell, David & Connie Zyer, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schuberth, Gerald & Robyn Dempsey, Ralph & Elaine Voss, Robert Sheridan, John & Kathy Poiron, Jerome & Peggy Serwa, Jeanne Allen, Nick & Janet Lesar, Michael & Sally Anne Chier, Dr. Mark & Cynthia Brower, Gerald & Janet Christiansen, Barbara Hill, Avis Luchsinger, Vita Armato, Ada Duffey, Badger Hardwoods of Wisconsin, Donald & Joyce Huml, Ellen Flanagan, Virginia Sammon, Barbara & Lee Zuzanek, Al & Rosemarie Reiherzer, Frank & Deborah Guido, Angela Trajkovich, 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: Peggy Cardiff in memory of Dot Cardiff and Marty Hansen. Kent & Nancy Castelein in memory of Doug Peterson. Mrs. Luanne Peterson in memory of her husband Doug Peterson. Duanne Harma in memory of his wife Donna Harma.

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, Vince, Sylvia, Richard, Jennifer, Jayden, Santina, Alex, Lily, Kaitlyn, Kynesha, Sheila, Adrian & Marilyn.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org