

## **Matching Grant Opportunities Bring Smiles to the Poverty Stricken**

Just when we begin to feel overwhelmed by the great need for poverty relief in our communities, we are always reminded that we have you there beside us. When we open letters that are filled with such heart break and tragedy, and then see these people and the suffering so many bear, it is hard to not carry that with you. It is then that we pray for strength and our prayers are answered by a phone call or letter of thanks and encouragement from one of our fellow creations sharing with us how we changed their lives, and sometimes even saved their lives. Then we are reminded that we should be rejoicing in our accomplishments together, the senior citizen that has food and warm shelter thanks to us, the child that has a warm coat and does not go to bed hungry thanks to us. Then when I realize we have successfully matched the Bernie and Nancy Labovitch \$36,000 Matching Grant and receive a phone call from the Family Foundation offering a new \$30,000 Matching Grant opportunity, I know our prayers have been answered. God does not want us to slow down or be overwhelmed. He wants us to continue our good works helping as many people suffering in poverty as humanly possible. We are happy to rise to the challenge and so grateful for the matching grant opportunities provided to us so far in 2018.

As I finish distributing the funds from the Bernie and Nancy Labovitch \$36,000 Matching Grant, I look forward to sharing with you where every penny has been spent. I cannot thank Bernie and Nancy enough for their faith and support of our good works. This was their first matching grant with The Time Is Now to Help and I thank all of "You" for your generosity in meeting their challenge. It came at the perfect time, right before the holidays, and has been instrumental in providing the funds for all our poverty relief efforts over the past six weeks. Once this matching grant is distributed we will immediately begin to use the funds from the new Family Foundation 2018 \$30,000 Matching Grant. Thank you Family Foundation for your third matching grant opportunity for The Time Is Now to Help. We are so very grateful for your continued support.

Dear W.C.,

I work at an apartment complex for adults with special needs. Most of these people I know personally and have formed friendships over the past two years I've worked here. I never had any interaction with people that live with disabilities, both physical and intellectual. When I was hired to be the maintenance person for these residents I thought I could just do my job and go home. That was not the case. Every day I see how they struggle to get by on their meager assistance and most have no families that care about them. There are two people in particular that I feel could use some assistance. One is a woman with intellectual and physical disabilities. I have been in her apartment a few times for repairs and noticed her bed

is extremely saggy. I don't know how she can sleep in it with her physical disabilities. The other person I am worried about is a young adult man. He has a physical disability and deformities. He is in great need of a coat, boots and a visit to a dentist. He has complained to me several times about the pain he is in. He struggles each month to pay his low rent and still have money for food. Do you think you could check on these residents and friends?

Dear Readers,

I called the maintenance man that had written this letter of request to get the contact information for both residents. He provided me with both their phone numbers and apartment numbers. We talked for a while about the people that live in these apartments. He shared many stories of how his life was changed by seeing the challenges they face each day, challenges that neither he nor I nor most of you will ever have to take on. He also was amazed by the gratitude and happiness most of the residents had for the apartment building they shared, the building they all called home. He agreed to meet me at the apartment building when he got off work to introduce me to these residents.

I met the maintenance man in the parking lot and we walked together to the first apartment. He wanted to introduce me to the woman first. I wanted to see if she needed any additional help other than just a bed. He said she used a walker and had some developmental disabilities. He said, "When I first started working here I didn't even know what that word meant. The longer I worked here the more we got to talking and before I knew it these people were my friends. They have taught me so much about gratitude and perseverance."

The maintenance man knocked on the door of the woman and we waited only a moment before she opened the door with a smile when she saw her friend was there. She asked, "What are you doing here? Aren't you supposed to be going home now?" Then she looked at me and again smiled and asked, "Who are you?" I told her, "I am a friend of your friend here. He asked me to come over and meet you." She held the door open and asked us to come inside. We entered the small apartment and I immediately saw her few belongings were very old and worn. The maintenance man tried to explain to her about The Time Is Now to Help and she seemed to understand. She asked me, "Are you going to buy me a bed like he says?" I said, "Do you mind if I go look at it to see if you need one?" She again smiled and said, "Go ahead but I don't sleep in it much anymore because it's too hard to get in and out of. I roll into the middle and can't get out." She showed me the old recliner chair she was using to sleep in instead. After seeing the very saggy bed and the nearly as old recliner I knew she could probably use both.

I again asked if I could look around briefly and she said I was welcome to. There was not much to see as the apartment was really only two small rooms. I noted she was low on

essential toiletries and added that to her list and her limited food consisted mostly of cereal and canned goods. I added some fresh foods to her list of assistance along with grocery gift cards. The maintenance man told me that the man we were going to visit next drove her and several other disabled residents each week to do grocery shopping. The woman said, "Yes. He is my friend too. Do you know him?" I told her I had not met him yet but would be meeting him next.

We made our way to the door with a promise to deliver a new bed and chair in the next few days. I told her we would be picking up some new sheets and blankets and asked her what color she would like. Her face lit up and she said, "Yellow please. It reminds me of sunshine and makes me happy." I told her, "Then yellow blankets are what you should have." She asked, "Can I hug you good bye? You have made me so happy too." She thanked me as we hugged and said good bye.

We made our way to the next apartment down the hall where the young man lived. This time the maintenance man told me about his physical deformities. He walked with a severe limp and used a cane. The man opened the door and he too smiled when he saw his friend was there. They shook hands and then introduced me, again explaining about The Time Is Now to Help. He understood and listened intently as I told him about our charity work.

When I was done telling him about The Time Is Now to Help he asked, "So what brings you here?" The maintenance man said, "Well, I was thinking you may need some help." The man looked a little embarrassed and said, "No. I'm okay." I looked around the nearly vacant apartment and said, "I think we can make you a little more comfortable here. Do you mind if I ask a few questions?" I pulled out my worksheet and began to fill it out. He said, "Well, if we are going to do this you may as well sit down." He pointed to one of the two chairs in the room. I said, "No go ahead. You guys sit down. I'm going to be looking around a little if it's okay with you." He laughed at that and commented how there wasn't much to see so I was welcome to. I couldn't help but notice how he flinched when he laughed. I added dentist to his worksheet.

As I looked around the nearly identical apartment I couldn't help but think the man was right. There wasn't much of anything to see. I asked how long he had lived at this apartment and he told me four years. "Ever since my mom died I've been on my own. She never wanted me to go to a home. She taught me to be independent. She even made sure I got my driver's license." I told him how commendable I found it that he drove his disabled neighbors to the grocery store each week. He said, "Well that might not be happening for a few weeks because my car just broke down." I asked to see the car and after looking it over

saw it would be worthwhile to fix. He said, "It was my Mom's and it was the only thing she was able to leave me. It's been a good car." I arranged for the car to be brought in for repairs.

After my evaluation I asked the man about his dental pain. I had noticed him several times flinching and rubbing his jaw. I told him to make his appointment and where to have the dentist send me an estimate. In addition to the dental work I found the young man to be in need of food, toiletries, some household necessities and the much needed coat and boots. His car would be fixed and we would provide gift cards for gas and the other necessities. I read the list of assistance we would be providing to the man and watched as the maintenance man looked away wiping his eyes. He truly did care about these friends he had made at his job. The man began to cry and said, "I can't believe this is happening. How can you do all this for me?" I took this opportunity to tell both of them about all of "You" and how you make our good works possible.

We said our goodbyes and as we walked out to the parking lot the maintenance man said, "Wow. I had no idea The Time Is Now to Help would be doing all that. How can I ever thank you?" I answered, "By continuing to keep an eye on these good people. It seems they only have you so please let me know if anyone else is in need." He promised he would as we said goodbye.

Since we have helped these two people they have found even more reasons to smile. Now that the disabled woman has proper food, toiletries and her new bed with yellow blankets, she is continuously smiling. The young man can now smile without pain thanks to having his much needed dental care. This assistance is thanks to all of "You" and our matching grant donors.

Every dollar you donate at this time will be matched by the Family Foundation \$30,000 Matching Grant, not only doubling your donation but also doubling your poverty assistance. The children, the handicapped, the elderly, veterans, and those that cannot fend for themselves will be crying happy tears of relief thanks to all of "You". Together "We" make a positive change removing the pains of poverty for our fellow creations.

*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:** Bernard and Nancy Labovitch, Family Foundation,

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**Memorials:** Mary Ellen Bayley in memory of her sister Beth Anderson. Gilbert and Jane Frye in memory of Wayne Perkins. Les and Pauline Malsch in memory of Tim Schaitel, Gaylynn Davis and Lou Rogers. John and Ann Ledbury and Dennis and Jayne Pederson in memory of John "Jack" Rehbarg.

**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, Sylvia, Richard, Jennifer, Jayden, Santina, Alex, Lily, Kaitlyn, Kynesha, Sheila, Adrian, Rhonda, Sal and Marilyn.

Please visit: [www.timeisnowtohelp.org](http://www.timeisnowtohelp.org)