

Dear W.C.,

You helped me over ten years ago when my husband was dying and we couldn't pay our bills. The Time Is Now to Help was a blessing during a very difficult time in our lives. I would never have been able to get by after his death if you had not been there to help. Thanks to your sound advice on managing my budget I have been able to get by each month ever since your help. Now I believe my granddaughter is in need of your assistance. She is a single mother with two children. She works very hard providing home health care to people. Her husband deserted her last year and she has been unable to get any child support. The problem she is having now is she came down with the flu last month and then her two children caught it. I helped as much as I could but I am a senior and could not be exposed in fear of catching it myself. My granddaughter could not work in that time as she was too weak and did not want to expose her patients to her flu virus. She also had to care for her children that could not go to school for several weeks. She was out of work for nearly a month. She is back at work now but unable to catch up. She stopped by to check on me today and broke down in tears telling me she could not pay her rent or for a car repair she needs. I know she is a hardworking mother and does not spend her money wastefully. She does not drink or smoke. She just needs help getting caught up after so much time off work. I told her about you and how you helped me so many years ago. I told her I would be writing a letter to you in her behalf. I pray you will be able to help my granddaughter and two great-grandchildren before it's too late.

Dear Readers,

I called the grandmother that wrote the letter seeking assistance for her granddaughter and great-grandchildren. After we spoke a few minutes I remembered her and the situation that had brought her to our attention over ten years ago. I was relieved to hear how our assistance had provided the help needed to continue with her budget and expenses for all this time. We turned our attention to the granddaughter and her present need for assistance. The grandmother filled me in on many of the details and was able to answer most of my questions. She was still very active and said she could drive to meet me at her granddaughter's apartment if I would like. We set up a time to meet the following afternoon as the grandmother told me she no longer drove at night and the granddaughter often worked morning and evening hours to help her patients.

The following afternoon I met the grandmother by the front door of the apartment building where her granddaughter lived. She opened the main entrance door for me and we walked together to her granddaughter's apartment. She told me she had told her granddaughter about my visit last night and told her the list of bills and documents I would like to see. The

grandmother said, "I think she is very nervous and embarrassed about this but I told her there is nothing to worry about. I told her about the help you gave me when her grandpa died. She had no idea about any of it. She was surprised to hear how you had helped me." She turned to me and asked, "Can I give you a hug? I feel I just never was able to give you a proper thank you. You changed my life. I have no doubt that I would still be struggling today if it hadn't been for The Time Is Now to Help." She wiped the tears from her eyes as we hugged in the hall outside her granddaughter's apartment. After a moment she released me from the hug and said, "Now it's time we help my dear granddaughter and her two boys."

The grandmother did not knock but just walked into the apartment. It was quiet as it was a school day and the two boys were still in school. The granddaughter was waiting by the door and after hugging her grandmother turned to me and shook my hand. After our introductions the granddaughter helped her grandmother to a comfortable chair and asked if I would like to sit down. We all sat to talk and after a few minutes I could see the nervousness the granddaughter was feeling was easing. We talked about the children and her apartment. Then our conversation moved to the children's father and his lack of child support. He had been missing for months and she shared he liked to drink and had heard he had a girlfriend out of state. She said, "I do not plan on ever getting any child support from him unless they find him and he gets a job. He's probably freeloading off his girlfriend like he did off me for the past year. Before that he was a good husband and father to the children. Then he started drinking after work and then during work so he lost his job. He changed and it was not the kind of atmosphere I wanted my boys growing up in anyway." She told me she had been forced to move after he left as she could not afford the rent in the house they had been renting. She was now paying a very reasonable rent and had made the proper change to her lifestyle so she could afford her bills on her income alone, until she and the children had gotten so sick.

The granddaughter told me how the flu had been so devastating to her and the children's health. She had to take the children to the emergency room one night and to the doctors several times before they were well. This had left her with medical bills on top of her already tight budget. She said, "It has been six weeks since I was sick. I am being so careful now to not catch anything from my clients but I have two children in school and they do bring stuff home sometimes. As soon as they get home I have them wash their hands and we try to eat healthy when we can afford it." It is so sad when I hear that people cannot afford to eat healthy. It should be more affordable for good whole foods not cheap snack foods, sweets and soda. The mother showed me her cabinets and refrigerator and I saw they had some food and thankfully I did not see soda and junk food. They could use some fresh foods, staples and I also noted a shortage of necessary toiletries.

We went through her bills together and I made notes on several bills for her to call to renegotiate and see if she could get late fees removed. Her rent was one month behind and she had a notice of eviction so I had her call her landlord and notify her that The Time Is Now to Help would be paying her rent up to date and one month ahead. The landlord was grateful for our assistance to her tenant and removed the late fees for her. The granddaughter's utility payment was delinquent so that was brought up to date to keep her from falling behind during the winter months. This can have a snowball effect and keep growing each month until by April the amount is impossible to pay off and the utilities are disconnected. We then went outside to look over her car. It was in need of many repairs and had very high miles. I had a feeling it would not be worth a repair but would leave that determination to our trusted car repair team. The granddaughter told me how her ex-husband had poured so much of her money into maintaining his truck that her car had been neglected. Even with her being the main earner for the year prior to his leaving he had selfishly used her funds for his transportation, not hers and the children's.

We recently received a very good running donated vehicle that had just completed service and I had a feeling that car would be given to this woman. She needed her car to maintain her employment and to be able to care for her children. I knew this donated car would be a life saver for her. This woman was the perfect candidate for this car because she was a hard worker and dedicated mother.

After we finished our review I saw the grandmother tearing up again. She had been quiet for most of our conversation. She reached out for her granddaughters hand and said, "I am so proud of you for being such a good mother and good granddaughter. You are always helping others but I knew you needed help this time. I had no idea it was as bad as it is. I'm so sorry I didn't write sooner." The granddaughter too had tears in her eyes as she got up and walked to the chair to give her grandmother a hug. She said, "I didn't want to worry you grandma. I know you can't help me financially but you are always there to cheer me on, give us love and help with the boys. I bet that is more than many of the people Sal helps even have." I had to admit she was right, "You are right, many of the people we help do not have any family to care about them. You two are blessed to have each other." Both women began to cry as they hugged each other.

The following week was busy with the assistance we provided together for this woman and children. Gift cards for food and toiletries were provided. Her car was found to be too expensive to repair so we transferred the donated vehicle to her. She could now safely get to her job that required a lot of driving. The stress relief we provided when we paid her overdue rent and utilities helped her to continue being a good mother and provider. All this was done

thanks to “You” and your continued support. Thank you for your important part in saving this family from eviction and job loss.

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.

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**Honoraries:** Robert and Mary Ann Zelenski in honor of Ruth Wiemer.

**Memorials:** Mary Rahn and Paul and Julie Woerpel in memory of John “Jack” Rehburg. Robert and Mary Ann Zelenski in memory of Audriene Zelenski and Jeanne Lois.

**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)