

Dear W.C.,

I worked hard and saved to finally get my own home five years ago. It is not a large grand home, but it is ours. I have two children and now have a dog named Otto. Everything was going great until I let my brother and his wife move in. They were going through a tough time and were becoming homeless, so I felt sympathetic. They told me they were working, that they were clean and sober, and they offered to help with my utilities and offered to pay room rent, which would have been a big help. Unfortunately, I found out too late that was not the case. They lied and stole from me, turning my home life into chaos. I came home from work early two weeks ago, when my son had to be picked up from school early due to an illness. Thinking they were at work, my young son and I walked in to find them in the home, not at work, high on something and rummaging through my desk. They acted disgusting in front of my child, swearing at me as if it was my fault because I came home early to my own home. After that confrontation, and many excuses, I found out a few days later they had accessed my checking account and taken most of my money out that had been earmarked for my mortgage payment. Again, they denied everything even though I had proof. They left the next day while I was at work, without a word. They damaged the walls, moving out furniture that was mine. They stole my sons' bed. They even took our food in my own cooler from my garage. This has been an absolute nightmare. My children are distressed by the chaos they have witnessed and the destruction of their room that they graciously gave up to their uncle and aunt while they were here. The only good thing that the kids got out of this is the dog Otto my brother left behind because he was too irresponsible to care for him properly. The kids love him. Then today I received my utility bills to find they have run up my electric and water utilities to amounts we cannot pay. They were supposed to help me with all these expenses but now they made them worse. I hope I hear from you before I lose everything due to my foolishness in allowing my brother to move in with us.

Dear Readers,

Many of us would take in a family member in need of help. It is shameful that these two individuals took advantage of their kind family that made room for them in their home.

I called the woman in the evening as she indicated she worked days. I could hear children in the background, but she said she could talk. Telling the children to work on their homework, she told me she was stepping into the other room to talk.

When she returned to the phone we talked about her children and how they were doing now. The mother felt guilty over what she felt she had subjected her children to. We talked about that and then moved on to talking about what she had gone through with her brother and sister-in-law. They had put them all through a terrible time. We both agreed they must have

been using drugs to do the things they had to her. This was not the normal way you would treat a family member trying to help you.

I learned her older son still did not have a bed since they stole it and was sleeping on the couch until they could afford one. Her utility bills and mortgage were still unpaid and now late. The only thing her paycheck had been able to replace was some of the food and toiletries they had stolen, as that had been first on her list. She also had been forced to buy dog food as she told me how her brother had completely neglected the sweet dog that the children were now attached to. The mother said, "This dog is really helping the boys get over the shock of their room being destroyed, and belongings taken by their own uncle. They play together constantly. I just am not sure if I can keep him without being able to afford a trip to the vet." Since Otto seemed to be the only saving grace in the whole situation, I worked on coming up with a plan.

We would help the family with their now overdue mortgage payment. We also would help bring their utilities up to date, provide a new bed for her son, provide gift cards for additional food, and gas for the mothers' daily commute to work. Also, thanks to our veterinary fund donors Otto would be provided a trip to the vet for overdue shots, neuter surgery, and a checkup. The woman walked back by her children and when she told them they would be able to keep Otto, the children both gave cheers of joy and cried tears of happiness. After many words and tears of gratitude, the woman promised to never jeopardize her own success as a single mother and homeowner again.

Thanks to the Family Foundation 2024 \$40,000 Matching Grant, your donations are being matched, doubling your assistance to those most in need. This matching grant is allowing us to continue our good work by preventing homelessness, hunger, and suffering. Thank "You" and God Bless "You".

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. You will receive a tax deductible, itemized thank you receipt showing how 100% of your donation was used for providing poverty relief. Please visit our website for more information, to read more of our past and current columns and/or to make a donation: www.timeisnowtohelp.org

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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: Brian, Mike, Sylvia, Megan, Kayla, Maria C., Judy, Scott, Annie, Marilyn, Brandon, Helen, Dennis, Mary, Joseph, Jordan, Jean, Tom L., Dr. Peter, Matthew, Pam E., Jenene B., John S., Patricia H., Ron K., Marian K., Judy, Wendy, Eric, Anthony, Mary, Charlie, Tom P., Christina, Billy, Mike, Cheryl, Bryan E., Ellie and Cornelia.

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