

Dear W.C.,

I have been homeless with my two children for the past six weeks. I really have tried to get our situation resolved on my own, but it is impossible for me to continue to pay for motels and save for another rental. We became homeless when our past rental, a two-story duplex, had a pipe burst on the second floor while I was at work. By the time I got home the whole house had flooded and caused a lot of damage. The landlord deemed it uninhabitable so he told us we had to move out immediately so they could address the flooding. I and my two teenagers had to pack everything and move it into a storage unit that I can no longer afford on top of all the other additional expenses. The clean up and move caused me to miss a week of work as we did not have anywhere to go and no one to help us move. This has been especially distressing for my kids. They are good kids and don't deserve what they are going through right now. Their father has not been in their lives since they were young, and he does not contribute any child support. I do not have any family or friends to fall back on for help. One of my co-workers told me about The Time is Now to Help because you had helped her out of a bad situation years ago. I am praying you are able to help us as we are down to only a few dollars left until I am paid next week.

Dear Readers,

When I reached out to this mother, I was disappointed to find they had gone from living in a motel to sleeping in her car for the past few days. Their funds had completely run out. Even with a full-time job she could not keep up with the daily costs of renting a motel room and there was no room at the homeless shelter.

With three people, the adult mother and two teenage daughters all sleeping in a car, it became an emergency to find them suitable housing as soon as possible. I listened as the mother and her daughters shared with me the difficulties of living in a car. The younger daughter began to cry as she told me the shame she felt and her worry over not being clean or safe. The mother confessed she only had \$15 left in her purse and that would be for some fast food for dinner. After that they only had some snacks and canned goods they had gotten from the food pantry. Going to school and work every day was a struggle due to a lack of access to safe showers and bathroom facilities. The two daughters were afraid and embarrassed to use public restrooms to brush their teeth and wash up. I could only imagine what they were going through every day, but I would do everything I could to get them out of their car and into a motel that day.

After several calls to motels, I found one with an opening that would provide them with clean beds and their own bathroom while we looked for a more permanent solution. While they drove to the motel to check in, I put in some calls to several landlords that had helped in the past. The mother also had an option she had found the previous day and I called to find

out more details. Several phone calls later, the two-bedroom apartment the mother had found turned out to be just what they needed. It was close enough to the mother's job and the daughter's school. When the mother was checked into the motel, she called me back and I gave her the good news. They would be able to move in in a week, just in time to get their belongings out of the storage unit before more rent was due. A volunteer dropped off gift cards for food to help them get through that week without also enduring hunger.

Together we provided the security deposit they needed to secure the apartment, along with two months' rent to help them start anew. We also provided overdue car repairs and gas gift cards for the mother's daily commute to work. The daughters were overjoyed to find two new twin beds in their apartment since they had not been able to move any beds or large furniture pieces in their mother's car. We also provided a new bed for the mother, along with new bedding for all of them. The mother and daughters were very grateful as they cried tears of thanks for all we had done together to help them overcome homelessness.

Thank "You" and God Bless "You" for making this and all our poverty relief efforts a success. We appreciate your support every day that allows us to change lives throughout our communities. Thanks to your continued support we will be able to share these blessings with the elderly, single mothers, working poor families, children, veterans and the handicapped that are turning to us for assistance.

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 to read more of our past and current columns and/or to make a donation: www.timeisnowtohelp.org Please go to the home page, follow the yellow highlighted link that says WC Letters to see current and past columns.

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Memorials: Peggy Cardiff in memory of Dot and Sharon Cardiff and Lisa Haydam.

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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