

Dear W.C.,

I am writing to see if you would be able to help my brother. He is a Gulf War veteran and, in the past, he has struggled due to PTSD and his disabilities from injuries from the war. Even with these disabilities he was able to work consistently until recently. He has had some setbacks to his health and is always hesitant to get some help from the veteran's hospital. He has applied for disability benefits but so far, they have been slow coming and will not cover the expenses he is struggling with right now. He is behind in his mortgage payment and struggling to pay his utilities since he has been off work. I go to his house twice a week to drop off meals and do a little cleaning up since he has been unable to do these things for the past few months. While there yesterday I found overdue bills on his counter. I know he did not intend for me to see these as he is a proud man. Being his big sister, I asked him about the bills, and it was one of the few times I saw my brother cry. He is terrified of losing the home he worked so hard for. It isn't much, but it is his. He is so ashamed, but I know this is not his fault. He is fighting to receive the disability that I know they owe him. He would have never been in this position if he had not served his country and been injured doing so. Please consider my brother for assistance from The Time is Now to Help.

Dear Readers,

Over the years we have helped many military veterans who proudly served their country. There are many times when they fall between the cracks while struggling with a disability and the compensation they should be receiving, and the reality of inflation and expenses that keep rising above what they receive.

When I called this proud veteran to discuss his current situation, our conversation began with where it all started when he joined the military. He seemed to need someone to talk to as he shared with me many details of his service and how he was injured and exposed to toxic chemicals. After several tours he went home suffering with unexplained symptoms. He worked hard to restore his health and pursued a job in the construction trade where he worked for many years until recently when new symptoms began.

Since his health began to decline again earlier this year, he could no longer perform his job and applied for the benefits he thought would be available to him. They were not what he had hoped for and the delay in receiving them had caused him to fall behind in his modest mortgage payment and his utilities. By skipping necessary medications and meals he was able to pay his car payment as he did not want to lose his only form of transportation. When the man spoke about his sister, he could no longer suppress his tears. He said, "If it wasn't for her, I would have gone hungry for sure. She has always been there for me."

I told him about my conversation with his sister and how she wanted to help but could not do more due to her own financial limitations. We added her to our phone call, and I listened for a few minutes while they spoke. The sister assured me she would continue to be there to help him around the house and with hot meals throughout the week. When I offered a volunteer to help, due to his pride he politely declined.

After a careful review of the man's budget, and learning his mortgage was more economical than renting, we would be providing two months mortgage payments, paying off his overdue utilities and some for the future to cover him until his benefits were all in place. We also would provide gift cards for food for both the brother and his sister who was preparing his meals. Gift cards for gas to get him to his medical appointments in Madison were also provided. With this assistance I felt confident that this man who proudly served his country would be safe from any further decline into poverty and possible loss of his home. When I shared this with the brother and sister, they both cried tears of relief.

It has been several months since the proud veteran received our assistance and the benefits have finally begun. He is also now receiving his medications from the VA and his health is improving every day. His hope is to return to work soon.

We are happy to announce that the Kune's Family Foundation has provided The Time is Now to Help with a new matching grant opportunity. The Kune's Family Foundation \$20,000 Matching Grant will begin immediately. Every dollar you donate will be matched, doubling the poverty relief we are able to provide, and 100% of this matching grant will be used to provide poverty relief throughout our communities. Thank you to the Kune's Family Foundation for their generosity and support of our poverty relief efforts!

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.

A Very Special Thank You: Kune's Family Foundation, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Paul Ziegler, Kunes Country Auto Group, Paper Dolls, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schuberth, Martin Group, John Stensland and family, Dr. Mark and Cynthia Brower, Carolann Lippert, Karin Collamore, Delilah Flaum, Greg Johns, John and Rita Race, Nancy Ferguson, Bob and Millie McCormick, Denis Hubbard, Patrick and

Patricia Stagg, Charles and Kathleen Heinz, Jay and Peggy Lewis, William and Harriette Lutz, Shawn and Donna McLafferty, J.N. Hackman, Timothy and Margaret Kumbier, Stanley Roelker, all of our anonymous donors and ALL of you who support The Time Is Now to Help donation boxes. Anyone who would like a Time Is Now donation box in your business, please call (262) 249-70000.

Memorials: Jim Prater and Vicki Volbrecht in memory of Orval and Jane Volbrecht. Richard and Rota Kallstrom in memory of Donald Bloch. Peggy Cardiff in memory of Dorothy Cardiff, Lisa Haydam and Dena Hansen.

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.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org