

Dear W.C.,

I am currently homeless and temporarily living on a friend's couch. This situation is very stressful, and they have asked me to leave as soon as possible so I do not endanger their lease. I was employed but lost my job due to another employee's error. We were both blamed even though I had no part in the mistake they made. I lost my apartment when no one would hire me. I have applied for many jobs but have not heard back from anyone for an interview. It is so discouraging as I have always been an honest and dependable employee. I have managed to hang on to my car so far as I sold all my belongings to make the payments, but I have nothing left to sell so next month's payment will be impossible to make. Without a car I would be unable to get to a job when I get one. It looks like I will also need it to sleep in until I can find another solution. I have never been in this position before in my life and I have no one else to turn to for assistance.

Dear Readers,

I called this homeless woman to learn more about her situation. It had been a week since her letter had been sent so, as I suspected, she was living in her car. We discussed her current circumstances in her job and housing search. She also shared with me the details of why she had lost her job, and it was not as bad as I had first thought. It seemed to have been an over reaction on her previous employer's part or just used as an excuse to let several employees go. Whatever the reason was for her being fired, it was in the past and we needed to work on improving her present situation by finding shelter and employment.

Living in her car was taking a toll on her physically and emotionally as she lived in fear and stress most nights, unable to sleep. I arranged for her to stay at a motel until she found a job and a housing solution. We also paid her car payment that was due the following day to remove the fear of losing her transportation. This alone brought tears of relief for the woman.

We talked about her job prospects, training and previous employment. I learned she had been previously employed for several years with one company and had left that job under good circumstances. When I asked if they would rehire her, she stated she had not considered them as the reason she had left was they had been struggling financially and unable to offer a raise when she had desperately needed one. I encouraged her to contact them to see if they were hiring and to get back to me as soon as she did.

The woman called me back a few hours later and was excited to share that she was going to be hired back by her previous employer. Their financial situation had improved and they had even agreed to a raise to help with the recent cost of living increase that is affecting so many people who live paycheck to paycheck. She had been honest with them about the incident that had caused her to be let go from her last job and they said they trusted her enough from their past experience as her employer to know she would not do anything to jeopardize her job or their reputation.

Things improved for this woman over the next month as she was once again employed and able to pay her bills. She found an offer to rent a room from one of her co-workers and it turned out to be the perfect solution to her current financial situation. The older woman she now shares a home with is quickly becoming a friend and they take turns driving to work to save on gas. They even share meals and cooking duties.

With our help in providing a new bed and some household necessities she had sold in the past, one month of room rent paid to her coworker, an additional car payment that allowed her to catch up on several remaining overdue bills from her period of unemployment and providing the much-appreciated motel room for a month, this woman has been spared the pains of homelessness and progressing poverty.

Thank you and God Bless You for your support that made this assistance and all our poverty relief efforts possible.

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: Phil and Susan Hagenah, Clarence W. and Marilyn Schawk Donor Fund, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Paul Ziegler, Kunes Country Auto Group, United Way of Walworth County, Timothy and Brenda Wegge, The Harold and Bernice DeWeerd Family Foundation, Paper Dolls, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schuberth, Martin Group, John Stensland and family, Jeff Martin, Leroy and Barbara Madsen, Chris Adams, Ron and Camille Grabski, Everette and Ellen Long, Shari and James Loback, William Antti, Marvin and Claudette Daniel, George and Laretta Clettenberg, Bob and Millie McCormick, Aileen Hodges, John and Rita Race, J.N. Hackman, Elkhorn Lions Foundation, Kelleher Family, LLC, 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) 249-7000.

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., Wendy, Eric, Anthony, Mary, Charlie, Tom P., Christina, Billy, Mike, Cheryl, Bryan E., Betty, Ellie, Concetta and Cheryl.

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