

Bill McEssy's McDonald's Donates: \$31,715 To Help Our Local Poverty Stricken

Food = \$4,100 (22,778 Lbs.)

Rent = \$10,384

Natural Gas = \$6,481

Electric = \$4,750

Phone = \$1,500

Household Necessities = \$2,800

Toiletries = \$1,200

Water = \$500

Total = \$31,715

Together we have helped many hurting fellow Americans in these past several weeks. Some of the people we helped include a mother and two children who were being evicted on Christmas Eve; we helped keep them in their shelter. We also helped many with their utilities. There were many people keeping their heat at very low temperatures, while wearing their coats inside, to lower their utility bills.

I remember arriving at one home, where there was plastic on the windows. When I knocked on the door, the two people who answered had their coats on. They were not expecting me, but were pleasantly shocked when I introduced myself. When I saw them with their coats on, I asked them if it was an inconvenient time and if they were leaving. They said no, so I asked to come in. They looked at each other very solemnly and invited me in. I went inside and I could still feel the chill of winter in the air. I asked them if their heat was broken and their reply was, "No, the heat is on very low."

I asked them if they were afraid of their pipes freezing. They informed me they were on a well and that they let it trickle so it does not freeze. We supplied them with checks payable to the utility companies. I told them they could now keep their heat on at a more comfortable level. Their child could now invite friends over again. Previously, due to their pride, the parents did not want their little girl to have her friends over because they could not afford to keep the heat on at a normal level. They did not want their child's friend to go home and tell her parents that they had to wear their coats, while in the house. We made a big difference in the lives of this family.

Others used their electricity very sparingly. After dark, there were many who went with very minimal light, to keep their electric bill as low as possible. This is very hard, especially for children. We enabled many children to be able to read a book with the light on or play a game. The adults and children we helped provide electricity for were very thankful.

One of the people from the food pantries asked me if they could obtain toiletries, especially toilet paper. She said, "We are always asked if we have any toilet paper." Then she said, "If we have toilet paper, we only give one roll per family because we have little or none."

How long could one roll of toilet paper possibly last? I am making another vow that I will locate a supplier of toilet paper at the best possible price. If anyone has any connections, please, please call 262-249-7000. A few homes I visited had a bucket of shredded newspapers instead of toilet paper. It is very sad that our fellow Americans do not

even have toilet paper.

We take a lot of household items for granted. For instance, when you want toast, you place a few slices of bread in the toaster. When you want fried eggs, you pull out a frying pan. When you want to serve your food, you pull out plates, utensils, etc. You may have a toaster oven to warm your food. Many people do not have any of these small appliances or cooking supplies. However, we have supplied such household necessities to those who did not have any, or the ones they had were broken or in very poor working condition. I found homes with rusted pots and pans with dents, broken handles, etc... We helped many in dire need of household items.

On January 20, 2007, at 1:00 PM, History was made.

What else did we supply with the funds from the McDonald's fundraiser? We supplied an abundance of much needed food. For the past two years, I have been trying to get my commitment of food from Second Food Harvest in Milwaukee to the 14 food pantries in our local communities. Finally, that dream became a reality.

Thanks to the monies donated by Bill McEssy, and others who donated a total of \$9,900, we are able to buy 77,777 lbs. of food. *The Time Is Now's* first delivery of 23,747 pounds was on January 20, 2007. Thanks To: The gracious Stinebrink Family, Owner Mark, and son Matt, who have graciously allowed their Pick N Save store to be the Drop Center for the fourteen local food pantries, who, in turn, serve all our local communities poverty stricken. Pick N Save opened their dock doors to a refrigerated semi-truck with 22 skids of food from Milwaukee's Second Food Harvest.

Mark Stinebrink, his son, Matt, other store managers and employees were physically unloading the skids of food off the semi-truck. Food for approximately 18 cents per pound allowed us to buy more than 5 times as much food for our dollar from Second Food Harvest. Second Food Harvest is a nation-wide network, providing food for the poverty stricken.

Thanks to the might of Frank Guske and many other Scout Leaders, Boy-Scouts, Cub-Scouts, Girl-Scouts, parents, and other adults who had volunteered, including some recipients of *The Time Is Now to Help*, 23,747 pounds of food were separated to the food pantries. They, then, loaded the various volunteered trucks, trailers, and other vehicles, in order to deliver the 23,747 pounds of food to the various pantries throughout Walworth County.

We had a meeting, prior to the delivery day, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church. Thanks to the 100+ volunteers who showed, we were able to coordinate this fantastic, God-Loving event, bringing food to their fellow Americans in need. I am so proud for all the Caring and Sharing. I thank Side by Side for allowing other pantries to utilize their services, to make it possible for them to get food. Thank you to, Shannon Blay, the Board of Directors, and the volunteers of Side by Side, a new and wonderful, caring organization. I also thank God for the volunteers who have been running the 14 food pantries for the past years, for helping this to become a reality. God Bless all of You.

I now ask the food pantries and the coordinators to please open your doors on Saturdays from 12:00 – 3:00 pm. There are many poverty stricken who cannot get to the food pantry during the week. There is one pantry that is open on a weekday until 9:00 PM, for those who work during the day. It is sad how many people, who need food, do not get food. This is because they do not know where the pantries are, they cannot get to the

pantry, due to work schedules or transportation issues. There are remedies for all these situations. American's have a bond in our Great United States. It is at times like this that show why we are a God Loving Country of Americans.

In the past, many of the pantries have had to ration their food, so as not to run out. The people are only allowed to go to most of the pantries once per month, in which they do not receive enough food to last a month. These are good people who want better paying jobs, or simply want a job. The economy is not good for many, and these are people who need our help until they can get on their feet financially.

Even Meals on Wheels, a county service, is only feeding 20 people. Once again, people are unaware that these programs exist. We need to make sure people know where to obtain food, and that the pantries accommodate hours to feed the needy. This is where the Boy-Scouts and Girl-Scouts come in to play again. Frank Guske has asked fellow troop leaders to volunteer at the food pantries, to provide assistance to the pantry coordinators and other volunteers, so the pantries may be open on Saturdays, and/or allow for extended hours during a weekday into the evening. We need to get the word out where the food pantries are located, their hours and days of operation, and their phone numbers. Our goal is, once a month, to deliver food from Second Food Harvest; more food will then be available to be given out. This means everyone needs to open their Caring and Sharing hearts, their God-Loving warmth for their Fellow Americans, and give each individual enough food to last for an entire month. I pray the food pantries will be gracious and will give more food.

The Time Is Now to Help will make signs for each pantry with their hours of operation so people driving by can see them. There are some pantries without signs that only rely on word-of-mouth. With the pride of the poverty stricken, there is not a lot of word-of-mouth going on about where they are getting help.

As always, I get emotionally drained from helping and sharing all the hardships with those we assist. Especially during the holiday season, when it seems like the Caring and Sharing hearts are opened even more. I find myself working very late everyday, including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, helping our local poverty stricken throughout our communities. Together we make a big difference in their pain and suffering. Physically it takes a toll on me. I have to apologize to everyone. This past Saturday, during the food delivery, I was very happy to see my dream become a reality, but physically, I was hurting inside and I was unable to do any lifting. Over the past several weeks, I received numerous letters with words of encouragement, and comments such as, "Please watch your health..."

When I opened these letters, I wondered how they knew how I was feeling. God works in mysterious ways. I received a phone message from a very special person, encouraging me for the work that is being done through *The Time Is Now to Help*. It was like a special prayer encouraging me. I want to thank that very special person, and all of you who have written notes filled with love and encouragement. God Bless all of you.

A Big Thank you, to all of you at the Food Drop Center at Pick N Save, who came up and said, "God Bless You..." It means so much to me to serve our local poverty stricken, knowing all of you are behind me, giving me strength and encouragement. God Bless Everyone for being such good Fellow Americans, for being such proud believers in one another, believers in Our Lord.

Health and Happiness, Love and God Bless, WC

Antique Day:

January 27, 2007 will be the 3rd Antique Day at the Lake Geneva Antique Mall, located at 829 Williams Street in Lake Geneva, from 10:00 – 5:00 pm. Bring your antiques for appraisal, maximum 3 items, and a \$3 donation per item will go to *The Time Is Now to Help*.

A Special Thank You To: Bill McEssy, owner of our local McDonald's, Clarence & Marilyn Schawk, owner of The Geneva Inn, Bernard & Jean Labovitch, Tom & Kathy Murray, James & Janice Batten, Tom & Sue Stelling, The Bemis Foundation, The Rhoades Foundation, Robert & Cathy Meinshausen, Bill Lundberg, Johanna Sterken, Karen Oglesby, Gateway College Staff members, and ALL of you who support *The Time Is Now to Help* donation boxes, including the businesses that allow our donation boxes in their places of business. Anyone who would like a *Time Is Now to Help* donation box in your business, please call 262-249-7000.

Please Help by Caring and Sharing. Send your donation to: *The Time Is Now to Help*, PO Box 70, Pell Lake, WI 53157. Every penny of your donation will go to the needy for daily necessities of life including: food, clothing, utilities, toiletries, shelter assistance, and household necessities.

Please make checks payable to: *The Time Is Now to Help*, *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 exactly what every penny of your donation provided for the poverty stricken.

Endowments/Helping Others through Your Will: For those of you who wish to leave an endowment for the poverty stricken, we would greatly accept any gifts. Please think of those in desperate need, good people, living in fear of poverty and consider helping them through your will.

Desperately Needed Cars: If anyone has a car they can donate, knowing you will be helping people get back on their feet, out of their desperate need for transportation to work, etc., please call 262-249-7000. We have many in desperate need of reliable transportation, so they can regain their independence, retain their jobs, provide food and necessities for their families, and ease their pain and suffering. Thank You and God Bless You.

Please visit: **HYPERLINK "<http://www.Time>" [www.Time Is Now To Help.org](http://www.TimeIsNowToHelp.org)**

May we be an Example of Goodness by the Life We Live.

Unity of Spirit - Communities of Friends

Together We Make Our Communities a better place to live in our Great United States of America.

