

A Landlord's Change of Heart

Dear WC,

There is a woman I know with two children whose car just broke down. She also is having a difficult time in relocating. She is a very gracious, kind lady. Her husband who became an alcoholic has left her. He cared nothing for his family, only for his habit. For years she has been struggling on her own to raise her two children. She is a hard worker but as you are aware, due to our current economy, many fall behind no matter how hard they work for their menial pay. If you can please help, it would be greatly appreciated.

A Worried Neighbor

Dear Readers,

It took me a few days to get in touch with this lady. I learned from her employer that she was a hard worker, and a very loving mother. It has been several years since her ex-husband has abandoned her, and the children, and fled the state. He obviously knew that, at least in our area, the laws are pretty tough on those who do not pay their court awarded child support. Most of the time these men are locked up and let out on a work release program until they get caught up on their past due child support. Rather than follow that path this ex-husband ran away from his responsibilities as a father, left the state and has never been heard from again.

The mother's car had just broken down and she was in the middle of trying to negotiate with her landlord to not increase her rent which she could not afford. When I contacted the landlord, he stated, "I have 18 rentals. I need to keep my goal of raising my rents every year". I questioned, "How are you doing financially? Are you paying all your mortgages, keeping up on your buildings and making some money for yourself?"

The landlord responded, "I have no debt. I've managed to pay off all my mortgages and I really don't have much maintenance. I figure if there's anything that has to be done it's up to the tenants to do it. Other than collecting my rent, I really don't have to do much of anything."

I asked if he could please see it in his heart to not raise the rent for this woman and her children as they were struggling to make ends meet. An increase in rent would put her even more over the edge. She had a choice of cutting back on her utilities, or having one or the other shut off. I discovered she was already cutting back on her food. I asked him if there wasn't anything he could do to help her.

The landlord told me, "Absolutely not! I have a rule and that rule is I raise the rent after every lease is up for renewal!" I asked, "How long are your leases?" The landlord's reply was, "Rule number two, all leases are one year, no longer."

I had found some of the buildings the landlord owns and visited a few of them. He was right, he never did any work – there were holes in the roofs, there was mold growing on the walls where families lived. It was apparent that as bad as conditions were in her apartment, that this lady and her children were living in one of his better places. The construction was poor at best. I asked how she even heated the place and she replied that in the cold weather, she and her children had to wear their winter coats inside. I promised her we would find her another place.

I then contacted the landlord again and told him he should be ashamed of himself, that there are laws regarding weatherization/insulating his rental units. He replied, "Isn't that up to my tenants?" I told him once again that he should be ashamed of himself for being so greedy. It was obvious from the buildings I visited that he was squeezing every penny he could get out of his tenants. This man had no heart for giving and was unwilling to put not even a penny in repairs or improvements.

I asked him if he believed in God. He said to me, "I go to church every now and then!"

I asked him if he thought that going to church a few hours a year counted for truly believing in God. He asked, "What do you mean?" I looked him in the eye and told him, "Do you think for one moment that given the position you're in financially and being capable of helping others get a roof over their head but refusing to do it, that the Lord accepts the way you are conducting yourself in squeezing the poor? You should be ashamed of yourself for the way you are treating God's people. You should be ashamed of yourself for professing that you believe in God when, in

fact, your number one belief is in money.”

He shouted in my face, “No one talks to me like that!” I responded, “I just did and now it’s time for your conscience to talk to you like that day in and day out until you find your heart”. He looked at me, puzzled. After planting the seed, I turned and walked away. I then turned back and said, “God bless you, because you really need it.”

I managed to find another place for this woman and her two children to live. The dwelling was a thousand times better. Structurally it was very sound and it was clean. It would be easy to heat and it was close to her job and to the schools her children attend. Happily she was able to obtain a vehicle that was donated by a wonderful elderly man.

After the mother and children were situated in their new place, I came back to visit. The mother told me how happy she was to be in such a wonderful place. She was paying less rent, she reported the car was running beautifully and she was able to get to work every day. She said that their lives have absolutely changed for the better. She asked that I thank everyone who had been sharing with *The Time Is Now* to make it all possible. I told her, as I’ve told all the recipients that we have helped, to please pray for and thank all those that have networked together with *The Time Is Now* to support our local neighbors who have fallen on hard times. She said, “Yes, God bless all of them and thank you for being there.”

About two months later, I received a call from her former landlord telling me, after the last time I had spoken to him, that I was right. He said after I left him with his conscience, he couldn’t live with himself, that something just snapped inside of him. He was having a hard time sleeping and he could not be comfortable with his way of life any more. He wanted to let me know that he had purchased building materials and he was rehabbing all of his rentals. In fact, he said, “I can’t understand, but those who have been living there have been donating their labor for free to help me make improvements.” He said, “Can you believe that?” I said, “Of course I can. True believers in people and in God are always willing to help one another.” He said, “Well, thank you for setting me straight; I sleep better at night. In fact, I lowered all my rents.” I said, “God Bless you.” and he thanked me. I thank the lord for touching this man with goodness.

My dear readers, it is nice that we can change lives for the better and give the help that we do. I thank all of you for caring and sharing. May God continue to bless us with our network of helping one another.

Health and Happiness, God Bless, WC

WWJD – Our Fellow Creations Need Our Help

We presently have 102 requests for help. In order to help ease the pain and sorrow of poverty, please donate what you can. Any funding you could Care and Share with the less fortunate would be greatly appreciated.

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.

A Special Memorial to: Mrs. Margo Rhyan, loving wife of 41 years, married to Jeff Rhyan “college sweethearts,” loving mother to Scott (Dawn), Jennifer D’Augustino (Joe), and Amy Auge (Gary), and grandmother to 6 wonderful grandchildren. Thank you Jeff Rhyan for your most generous donation to “The Time Is Now” to help our local poverty stricken. Margo is in our prayers. God Bless. WC

A Special Thank You To: Paul Ziegler & the Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Eli Warzynski, Desiree & Ron Lipowski, Ron Vyskocil and Family, Anne Grace Mattenheimer, Pam DeRoy, Mary Boak, Helen & Steven Buchanan, Eugene Schmig, Joanne Campbell, Thomas & Mary Keeley, Mary Anne Lynch, Donna Rice, in memory of Leo Grace, Tom & Sue Stelling, Bemis Foundation, Lakes Area Italian Club, ALL of you who support *The Time Is Now to Help* donation boxes, and the businesses that allow our donation boxes. Anyone who would like a *Time Is Now to Help* donation box in your business, please call 262-249-7000.

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: We presently have a waiting list of people in need of cars. You will be helping someone get back on their feet by providing them much needed 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**

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