

Dear WC,

My children and I are in a bind. We are being evicted for being behind on our rent, and I have no one to turn to. I am a single mother of two and my elderly aunt is also living with us. This past spring and summer I was looking for a better job but I could not find anything. As you know, the economy does not seem to have recovered and there are a lot of us struggling to get by on low income seasonal jobs.

I took a job at one of the big hotels, knowing that my job would only last the tourist season, but I kept looking for other work. I had to work as many hours as I could and take advantage of the opportunity at hand. I thought if I worked very hard there might be a possible long term position for me, but there was not. My boss said that I did an excellent job, but there was not any work for me during the fall and winter months. They said they would gladly hire me back next year. That does not do me any good right now when I have rent, food, utilities, gas for my car, etc. that I need to pay for. I graciously thanked them for the offer and for the job during the summer.

My aunt receives a check every month but it is not very much. She helps us out where she can. I was getting paid just \$2.00 above minimum wage and that doesn't go very far.

My children both became sick and I ended up having to pay for prescriptions and doctor visits. It took a toll on the very tight budget that my aunt, the children, and I had established. I did not have any savings so when I got laid off work in the fall we fell behind in everything. We then received an eviction notice. I tried offering my landlord everything I had, which was about 75% of the rent that was due, but they refused. I was told the apartment was already rented to someone else. If there is anything you can do, I would be most grateful.

A Struggling Mom

Dear Readers,

When I investigated this situation I spoke with the mother's ex-employer. The manager of the hotel told me that this mother was a very hard worker. She regretted that she had to let her go but she had no choice. She had to cut back and she was not the only one laid off.

The mother presented me with a very thorough budget that included the aunt's check, and precisely showed every expense. I was very impressed that everything from food, utilities, toiletries, etc... were included. She also listed where to get help for clothing and visiting the food pantry when it was necessary. The woman claimed that she was not frivolous with any money. She did not smoke or drink.

We found them a nice place to live at a better rent. We helped her family relocate and supplied the security deposit and the first month's rent. It did take time, but it worked out well. We helped to fill the cupboards with food. We also helped with some daily necessities and necessary items for the children for home and school.

The family was a team, and everyone was included with decisions pertaining to their budget. They even discussed together what to make for dinner. It was nice to see the united front they presented. The mother would say how the children would get excited about planning a frugal meal menu and how they enjoyed the time together. They would buy candles for less than a dollar and turn the frugal dinner into a candlelit dinner. She said the girls loved to make the meal special, even though what they were eating was a very simple low cost meal. The candles helped to save on electricity and the dim candle light would hide her tears as she worried about becoming homeless, how to pay bills, and not letting her children and elderly aunt down. This good woman was alone with her small family fighting the fear of poverty, yet not wanting them to know how afraid she was, until all of us, together through The Time Is Now to Help stepped in. God Bless all of you.

One of the best things we were able to do for this family was finding the mother a job doing bookkeeping. This is going to be a full time, year-round job where she will be earning twice as much as her last job. After I checked in on them some time later, I was told they were still enjoying the candlelight dinners and still planning the frugal menus together. The mother told me now she can budget and save money for a rainy day so they can be self-sufficient. The mother said, "I tell my girls that Auntie and I are strong women and we want them to be strong women too. The way to do that is by being able to be self-sufficient and holding your heads high with pride."

I had to ask, "Are there still tears by candlelight?" She said, "No, I

am very happy. We have always been together, and now it is nice to know that we were never alone.” She asked that we say thank you to everyone involved with The Time is Now to Help. I assured her I would.

God Bless all of you for reading, for Caring and Sharing. Please network our column to others. Do whatever you can to network what we are doing here in our local communities to ease the pain and suffering of our neighbors in need.

I want to thank everyone for their very quick and positive response to last week’s column. I was torn in writing that column regarding women and men speaking out in behalf of protecting our women and children. I think this is the biggest response I have ever received. God bless all of you for your support. It is a very upsetting topic, but together we will support each other, support this program that our wonderful employees of the County are trying to do for all of us, especially the victims. We need to prevent future victims and to give support to those that have been victimized, giving them a better chance of healing.

Please remember all donations that we receive will continue to go towards food, shelter, utilities, and daily necessities unless you specify your donation be applied to this special program. Anyone that specifically wants to support the program for speaking out in helping the victims in our county – the women and the children, please add a note stating, “Please apply my donation towards the Walworth County Alliance for Children.” All other monies received will be applied towards helping the poverty stricken with food, shelter, utilities and daily necessities. I thank all of you for Caring & Sharing.

Health and Happiness, God Bless Everyone, WC

MLH \$25,000 Matching Grant: I was blessed to meet a loving couple at a dinner event for The Time Is Now. The gracious couple has decided to do a \$25,000 Matching Grant. Please send in your donations. Every dollar will be doubled, and go twice as far to help our neighbors in need. Please Care & Share.

Please Help: Make checks payable to: The Time Is Now to Help, P.O. Box 70, Pell Lake, WI 53157. 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 Thank You to: MLH, Fontana Garden Club, Kathryn

Alder, Ministry Mechanics, Butch's Automotive, Drs. Scot & Mona Hodkiewicz, Charles & Barbara Williams, LeRoy Vogt, Tom & Susan Stelling, Barry Rietz, Andrew & Donna Wojdula, Stewart & Carol Calkins, Phyllis & Michael Patek, Evan & Annette Wynn, James & Janice Batten, 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 donation box in your business, please call (262)249-7000.

Pick 'N Save "We Care" Program: Please sign up for the "We Care" program at your local Pick 'N Save. A percentage of each purchase will go directly to The Time is Now to Help. All you have to do is designate The Time is Now, account number **832410**, on your Advantage Plus Savers Club Card application.

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.

Donate Stocks/ Mutual Funds, Let the Government Contribute: Consider donating shares of appreciated stocks and mutual funds to The Time Is Now to Help and receive twice the benefits from your gift. Please call 262-249-7000 if you would like more information.

Much Needed Cars: Please consider helping someone in dire need of a car in order to get to work and support their family. Instead of trading in a car, donate it to The Time Is Now To Help and receive a tax deduction. Please Care & Share.

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