

Bill McEssy's/McDonald's Caring & Sharing Is Helping Many

My Dear Readers,

It is about 3 o'clock in the morning and I finally got home. I am so tired; I am emotionally and physically exhausted. I know after I get some sleep, I will be ready to pour myself, both body and soul, into helping the needy again tomorrow. I thank everyone for their Caring and Sharing. I do love what I do, but I have to admit emotionally it gets very draining and, combined with pushing myself, I can feel the toll these past weeks have taken.

If I could do nothing else but The Time is Now to Help, it would be a dream come true. I feel I am fulfilling my mission in life when I am assisting those in need. In addition to the long hours which have come about due to the season of incredible Caring & Sharing, the season also brings our brutal winter to the poverty stricken. If you do not have money for heat, or shelter, if you have a car that has no heat, or worse yet no car and are required to walk to work, it is especially difficult. If the poverty stricken are lucky enough to have a car, which about 95% of the people that are poverty stricken do, probably half of those cars are in need of repairs. The wipers might not work, windows might not operate or might be broken, batteries that have been jumped for the past year or more need to be replaced, often they are running on fumes hoping to get where they are going because they do not have money for gas. I often check tires only to find the treads smooth as a table top. For the other 5% that do not have any cars, they wish they had one of those wrecks.

Along with our generous sharing, there are many referrals right now, more than any time of the year. People are being more conscious of one another and wanting to help. A lot of people help by bringing those in need to our attention. That is what we are here for, to network the people in need to the right assistance. Often these referrals are the most desperate situations. The people often are not aware of the assistance available to them and live in insufferable conditions much longer than necessary.

When I did a visit today I noticed the springs in the couch were showing and there was only one twin bed, with no blankets, that several children were sharing. There was a dire lack of food, and many windows needed repair. They had used pieces of wood and cardboard to fill in the broken panes of glass. After helping there I moved on to find an elderly widow who did not have much of anything. She barely was keeping the

heat going and set at a temperature where she had to wear her coat at all times. No car, no phone, no relatives or friends close by. When I inquired into who comes to visit she looked at me with tears in her eyes and said, “Who would want to visit with me? Why would they want to?” As she looked away to cover her sadness, I reached out, hugged her and said “Well, I’m here aren’t I?” She returned the hug, saying, “You don’t know how much this means”. I said, “I think I do, because if you are half as happy as I am for being here, it does mean a lot.” She gripped me even tighter, surprising me with the strength she possessed.

She needed help in most areas so we provided her with the daily necessities of food, rent, utility assistance and some small appliances to make her life easier. She did not even own a can opener and she tried not to burn her bread when she toasted it under the broiler. Those are just a few of the things we often take for granted. At the conclusion of several visits she told me, “I feel like a new person. God Bless everyone for helping.” That is what The Time is Now to Help, with your Caring & Sharing, wants each recipient to feel like.

I met another single mom today. When I arrived I noticed she was crying. I asked her if she had applied for any assistance and she replied, “I did several weeks ago but I was told that I was on the waiting list.” The waiting list she was on would not provide help, and maybe if it did it would not be for several months. We went into action right away. The children were provided with food, rent assistance, clothing and some Christmas cheer was given to all we met.

Many people were generous over the Christmas season but please remember The Time is Now to Help reaches out and eases the pain and sorrow of poverty 365 days a year, 12 months of the year, all year long. With the J.D. Development \$25,000 Matching Grant now available to us it is the perfect time to remember your fellow creations in need as you are counting your blessings and thinking about Caring and Sharing. For every dollar you give another dollar will be given by J.D. Development. Every penny will go to help the poverty stricken.

This year thanks to Bill McEssy’s McDonald’s, and all of you who participated, we have raised more money in this fifth annual McDonald’s Day fundraiser than we have any other year: \$40,380 from the McDonald’s Day fundraiser and another \$3,600 from the donation boxes Bill allowed us to keep in his McDonald’s through the month of December. May God Bless Bill and all of you for sharing so we may keep helping and caring for those who have fallen on hard times.

I bid everyone a good night. It is time for me to lay my head down so I may think about those I met today as I sleep. As I meet the people and feel their emotional distress, it is impossible not to share their feelings. Even when I sleep I still cannot get them off my mind, I often wake from distressing dreams. Then I put those feelings in God's hands and let him guide me in what must be done. When I do that God blesses me by allowing me to wake feeling refreshed and energized so I can be excited about helping another day.

I thank the Lord, and I thank every one of you for your Caring and Sharing. God Bless you.

Health and Happiness, God Bless Everyone, WC

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: J.D. Development, MLH, Bill & Lois McEssy, Tom & Kathleen Murray, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Steve & Catherine Boho, Geneva Lake Development Corp., Jay Ieronimo, Leather Lips Water Sports, Donald & Kim Parker, Brittany Reuss & Jenna Palmer for their Badger High School Senior Project fundraiser, Donald & Marilyn Ketchpaw, Dennis & Donna Wisniewski, Peter & Ingrid McMasters, Tim & Laura Kolnik, Helen McMasters, Donna Jones, Frank & Donna Scherkenbach, Marvin & Audrey Hersko, Jerry & Thelma Meyer, David Williams, Duane & Evelyn Duesterbeck, Rose Loverde in memory of her husband Dominick Loverde, Dawn Heiser, Phyllis Weeden, Richard & Jane Roman, Dale & Gail Folkers, Thomas & Jean Holloway, St. James United Methodist Church Mission Committee & Women, Elkhorn Chemical & Packaging, Gwen Quincannon, Vera Lawton, Cathie Hoerler & Damian Slaske, Janet Williams, 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 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 Is Now To Help.org

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