

Dear W.C.,

I am 15 years old, and I am concerned about my grandmother. When its dinner time at home my grandma always says she already ate or eats very little food with us. When I try to coax her to eat she says she ate before I came home from school. She says she likes to eat early. Since we really don't have a lot of food at home, I think she's just saying she already ate before I get home.

I am in the free breakfast and lunch program at school. Some kids complain about the food, but I look forward to it. Maybe it's because we do not have a lot of food at home and I am very thankful for the food my school provides.

My mom works hard, but I always hear her complaining to my grandmother that she doesn't get paid very much. When I walk in the room they usually change the subject if they are talking about food, money, or bills. When I ask them what is going on, they always tell me everything is fine. I can see that it's not. I can see that my mom and grandma are worried a lot.

If there is anything you could do to check with them because they are not telling me what is going on. I told my mom I wanted to quit after school activities and get a job. She won't allow me to do that. I really think I need to get a job. I am very confused. Thank you for reading my letter.

God Bless You too,

A Concerned Daughter and Granddaughter

Dear Readers,

I contacted the mother and after a 20 minute conversation she agreed to a visit. I went to their humble apartment filled with just the basic necessities, a table, chairs, small tattered couch, a small TV, and three very worn beds. I found out they had relocated. Everything they previously had was lost in a fire. There was no insurance, and the fire was due to an electrical problem. The landlord was well aware of the problem, but had done nothing to correct it. The landlord told them the building was too old to do any improvements and they should just keep replacing the fuses. Thank God no one was at home when the circuit failed for the last time and burned their building down.

The visit was scheduled when the daughter had an activity at school on Saturday and the mother was not working. She confirmed with me that her job only paid her a little more than \$7 an hour. It did not leave much to live on. The grandmother received a very small Social Security check. They had to cut back on everything to maintain their rent and keep the utilities on.

After seeing for myself how little food was in their cupboard, I told the grandmother, “You must really love your granddaughter to tell her you have been eating, when most likely you have not been.” The grandmother said, “I love my granddaughter very much and she needs her strength.” With that she looked down and I could see she was hiding her feelings. I looked at the mother and she said, “My Mom is very headstrong. She gives me many excuses why she isn’t eating, but I know what she’s doing. She’s trying to save as much food as possible for my daughter.”

After reviewing their budget I could see that there was little money left for food. I asked the mother about the idea of the daughter wanting to get a job. She got upset over the fact of her daughter having to give up her youth so early. She said, “No, I do not want her to get a job, earning next to nothing, and giving up her life. That’s what I’m doing now. It’s bad enough my mother and I are suffering in the state we’re in. My daughter needs this precious time. Soon she will be in our world of work and worry. There is no need to rush into that.”

I contacted one of our volunteers and asked the mother and grandmother if they would like to go on a food shopping adventure. I added this would not only be good for the two of them but would provide additional food for her daughter/granddaughter. With that they both agreed. We planned it around when the granddaughter would be home. The volunteer took them to Pick n’ Save and demanded they fill up several carts of food. I was told the mother and grandmother kept insisting, “That’s enough. That’s enough”, as the volunteer told them, “W.C. insists we fill the cupboards.” It took continuous coaxing, but they finally filled up the carts. The volunteer stated how excited the granddaughter was over all the food.

While this was happening, I delivered three new beds, got a few more pieces of furniture and had everything ready for their return. While the granddaughter was looking at her new bed, as the old tattered mattresses were being hauled out, I noticed the grandmother and mother holding on to each other, crying. I approached them and told them they should be happy, they need to be happy for the daughter. They said, “We are. We just can’t understand why all this goodness is happening to us. It seems like all we’ve had is bad luck, until The Time Is Now came to help.” I told them there are

a lot of people out there, a lot of good neighbors throughout our communities that want to help one another.

The granddaughter thanked me profusely for reading her letter and for helping her family far beyond what she had ever imagined. I told her we need to give thanks to all the people that read our column and their caring and sharing. We helped them with checks to cover utilities. I asked the grandmother to please eat a full dinner with her granddaughter every day. She agreed and the granddaughter hugged her and said, “Thank you, Grandma. You mean so much to me. I need you to take care of yourself.” All three women looked at me curiously when I said, “I talked to your employer and they agreed to give a \$2 an hour raise. The employer did not know things were so desperate, and since business has been good they said they can give a raise. In addition, the employer provided a check for next month’s rent.” The mother began to cry saying, “I never knew they even cared about me. We were always so busy working.” I told her sometimes people just need to know that someone is out there hurting and they will help. The entire premise of *The Time Is Now* is when good people know good people need help, we help.

The mother began to cry again, holding her frail mother, turning her face away from her daughter. The granddaughter hugged both of them and all three started sobbing. While I write this my eyes are tearing, thinking of the good we did together that day. Once again we took away the fear, pain and hopelessness of poverty and gave help, compassion, and renewed hope to our fellow creations.

I received a letter from them thanking each and every one of you, our Caring and Sharing supporters, for your kindness and generosity.

*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:** Dick & Jean Honeyager, Phyllis Weeden in memory of Ken Weeden, Jay Ieronimo, Alan Homan, Richard Mertes, Elizabeth Cox, Walter Zimmerman Jr, Michael Kuhl, Virginia Moser, Donald & Marie Voss, J.D. Development, Bill & Lois McEssy, The Rhoades Foundation, Paul Ziegler, Dorothy Heffernan, Barbara Morrissey, Joan Brinker, Dale & Eileen Grzenia, Zachary & Tina Janssen, Gerald & Marilyn Wilkin, Geraldine Hinton, Lorna Klein, Steven & Susan Woodcock, Ruth Przewoznik, special thanks to Lula & Sigrid Anagnos for their generous birthday celebration to benefit The Time Is Now to Help, Michael & Margot Hayes, Richard Borkowski, David & Sarah Schuster, Katherine Kay & Jonathan Walczynski, David & Nancy Williams, James & Donna Stackpool, Margaret Condos, James Peck, Tyler & Tami Irwin, Tammy Mikrut, James & Janet Happ, Michael & Tamela Dunn, Mary Ellison, M. Keeley Lindner, Patricia & Gregory Johnson, Eugene & Diana Altwies, 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.

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**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.

**Desperately Needed Cars:** Once again we have a desperate need for used cars. If anyone has a car they are thinking of trading in or an extra car you are not using, please think of those who are in desperate need of transportation to get them to and from work so they can provide the daily necessities for their families. Without reliable transportation it makes their situation even more desperate. Please Care & Share.

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