

Dear Readers,

8/18/08

I received a request for help from a single mother. Sometimes I do a spontaneous visit, without calling first, versus a planned visit. I get a truer picture of the day-to-day situation in these unplanned visits. Sometimes I have no choice but to do an unplanned visit because there is no telephone. That was the case with this single mom. When I knocked on the door a young girl answered. I asked to speak to her mother and she responded, "My mother doesn't live here." At that point I introduced myself, and she told me she was the one who had written the letter asking for help. I cannot explain the feelings I have when I come across children having children, but I will do my best.

I was invited in and began to look around. I saw an apartment that looked like a group of teenagers moved in together. They did not have much other than a few cast off pieces of furniture. In this situation it was not the experience of a few teenagers moving in together for fun and independence. This was the real life of a young girl who got pregnant, decided to move in with her boyfriend and then the boyfriend left.

It is very difficult to work through a situation when the "adult" of the family doesn't yet understand life and all its responsibilities. They will make a wholehearted attempt at being an adult and they do love their children; but still there is something missing. What is missing is the experience of knowing how to cope, how to provide food, shelter, and the daily necessities. This poor young girl was barely grasping it and became engulfed by someone telling her they loved her, they would take care of her. Maybe she didn't have a great relationship at home with her parents – or maybe she did. It really doesn't matter because when independence comes knocking, young people reach out.

I discovered there were no diapers and very little food in the house. A visit to the food pantry at this particular time did not help very much. The young girl told me the food pantry was out of food except for little hard loaves of bread, which she had been given one. I asked if she had taken her baby with her on her visit to the food pantry and she said she had. I asked if any other help was offered and she replied, "They did have some eggs, but I didn't take any because I told them I had WIC." This is the Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program. A mother brings her children into the project center for a consultation and is given coupons/checks for milk, cheese, juice, cereal, peanut butter, and eggs. After a period of time you go

back for another visit and are given more coupons/checks. The girl had run out of everything except a few eggs.

The father had left once and came back, then decided the responsibility was too much for him and left again. The girl tried to apply for housing assistance, but one of the pre-requisites is that she had to file for child support. Since the father is working and she is just getting by working a few hours here and there, the housing assistance would be a great help as would child support. The father threatened her and the child's life if she took him to court for child support. To make matters worse, the girl was torn between her fear and her misguided love for the father of her child.

I have been helping people for decades, and it seems some situations have something in common and others, such as this one, are complex. I continue to see different situations all the time. It would be so easy to throw your hands up and say, "If you're confused about your situation, and obviously don't want to get a grip and help yourself, what am I doing here?"

I have too close of a relationship with God to actually do that, but it does run through my mind. I stuck it out to try and help this child. I looked at the child and I saw there were needs. I questioned the mother about her ability to supply those needs. The child seemed to be healthy but more was required to sustain a healthy and happy life. After extensive conversation with the mother I found she has a devoted love for the child. She had a misunderstanding about life's responsibilities overall, but even at her young age she really loves her child. Even if the father of the child, her boyfriend since they never were married, is only there for them a few hours every now and then, and the rest of the time he is chasing his own selfish desires, the mother is continually at the child's side.

I made a request of some of our volunteers to bring some formula, diapers and other necessities for the baby. I continued to educate the young mother about a budget. Children do not ask to come into the world. They do not put in a request for a particular financial situation or two caring parents. Children have no choice, but we do. When we are confronted with the knowledge of poverty and the suffering of young children, we have to do God's will to Care and Share.

Sometimes I think it is good for young teenagers to see and hear about situations like this. To me it is a much better way to teach self-respect, including respect for bringing a child into this world when you are not ready. Can you imagine in these economic times, with gas and food so expensive, good jobs so hard to find, and being a teenager bringing a new life into the world? There is more forethought and planning put into purchasing a car than there is in becoming pregnant and bringing a child into this world.

There needs to be an education program that stresses the consequences of teenage sexual activity. They need to know the real facts about what it is like to care for a baby while you are still a child yourself. While all your friends are going to school, sporting events, movies, etc. and you are burdened with the responsibilities necessary to raise a child on your own.

I referred this young girl to some of our local agencies to help her with her child and protect them from the potential violence of her boyfriend. Our agencies do an excellent job and the support they get from the local authorities is also very helpful. I helped with what planning and budgeting I could offer; hopefully it will be learned and remembered. We networked with some responsible understanding adults willing to offer this kind of help. Thanks to our Caring and Sharing we were able to bring food and daily necessities. Together we were able to give some support to this young mother who wasn't ready to bring children into the world. We did relieve the hungry cries of the babies. God's creations come in all shapes and sizes. I pray the boyfriend/ father becomes the man he should be and finds the goodness in his heart to love his child and provide for her and the mother. If he chooses not to then maybe the agencies and authorities will instill in his mind that there is justice and his threats to this mother and child will not be tolerated.

I received a call from one of the volunteers that has been interfacing with this young mother. She informed me the baby is very healthy, and being cared for regularly. One of the volunteers who has lost her family due to an accident has been blessed by being able to help.

*Health and Happiness, God Bless Everyone, WC*

**Richard Driehaus \$30,000 Matching Grant:** We are over half way to our \$30,000 goal. Please use this opportunity to double every dollar you give. Richard Driehaus has again generously offered The Time Is Now to Help a \$30,000.00 Matching Grant. For every dollar you give Richard will match it with another. God Bless you for Caring and Sharing for those in need.

**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, Paper Dolls, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Kunes Country Ford & Kunes Country Chevrolet & Cadillac, Paul Ziegler, Bill & Lois McEssy, Lynda Adas, Margaret Allender, Heidi Hall, Brenda Schneider, Arlene Clausen, Tom & Joyce Roche, Tamara Yuknis, Robert & Mary Lou Schroeder, Westshire Single Woman's Group, James & Karen Goodrick, Merilyce O'Connell, James & Janice Batten, Betty Koepsel in memory of Henry Koepsel, Patricia Sherman in memory of Rev. Donald Wilke, the following donations were given in memory of Elna Koerting: Joyce Lawton, Willis & Audrey Retrum, Richard & Donna Chamberlain, Donald Pomplun, Lillian Wiedenhoeft, Vera Morton, Elaine Schultz, Mary Lynd, Julianne Hilgen, Pauline Humphrey, Genevieve Taylor, 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.

**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.

**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.

**Goodsearch for The Time Is Now:** Search the web with [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and help to raise funds for The Time Is Now to Help. Just make [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) your homepage, pick The Time Is Now as your charity and the rest is simple. You can even shop some of your favorite online retailers. It is a fun and easy way to help 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.

**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.

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