

CHOICES

Dear Readers,

9/8/08

These economic times are very hard for many. You do not need to see the poverty stricken standing in front of the food store begging for food to know there are many people going to bed hungry every day. The poverty stricken are not carrying signs saying they are living without electricity or gas. These people have a choice to beg or be proud. Sometimes I find myself begging on their behalf. Does this mean I am not proud? No, it means that I am proud to tell their story, I am proud to speak in their behalf.

For the past several years we have been networking throughout our local communities through the newspapers. Recently we lost our network capability with one of the newspapers, The Walworth County Week. The Lake Geneva Regional News remains steadfast in bringing the word that there are many hurting among us that need help. Skip Bliss, the owner of Walworth County Sunday has recently acknowledged his awareness that The Time is Now to Help column is not being run since The Week ceased publication. I have been informed our Time Is Now column will run in the Walworth County Sunday beginning this week. We thank Skip for his gracious heart to continue our networking so we can continue to be the voice of the proud poverty stricken and all the good people who want to make a difference by Caring and Sharing.

During these hard economic times we have seen a dramatic increase in requests for assistance. The Time Is Now to Help has more people needing assistance than we have had in years. What I find far too common is the need for hot water, food, and the threat of homelessness. Many of our proud poverty stricken are forced to choose between being homeless, going hungry or living without utilities. I am seeing more and more situations where the gas has been turned off for weeks or months. If there was a gas stove, that means no way to cook food or heat water. If they are lucky enough to have an electric range they can use that to heat water. Imagine the time and labor involved to just give your children a warm bath. Often the electricity is disconnected also so this is not even an option.

When I ask the elderly or the children what it is like to bathe under those circumstances, I sometimes get the response of them wrapping their arms around themselves, shivering as if they were standing outside in the winter. All of us should try to take our next bath or shower without any hot water. I have to admit that I tried it for a few seconds. I quickly jumped out of the cold water. This is no way for our elderly and children to live.

I have been opening many cupboards and refrigerators lately only finding condiments, maybe some mustard or ketchup. After I look at the empty cupboards I have to compose myself before I close the door knowing that I cannot express my full feelings of sadness. I cannot turn in that instant and look at the people knowing they feel the pain of hunger.

We all have choices to make, and the present choice is do we help or do we ignore those in need. Just as the newspaper has a choice of letting us know what some of our neighbors are going through, or do we keep the pain and suffering of poverty in the shadows while the rest of us go on ignoring the fact that our fellow creations of God are truly suffering. I know what our answer is. We want the awareness. We need the awareness. We want to help our fellow creations. Just because our country is going through hard times does not change the hearts of strong Americans. The reason why our country is made up of such strong people is we have the inner belief, patriotism and responsibility for one another, to protect one another, to stand up for one another, to speak up for one another. These are our strong choices as fellow Americans, as for those of us who believe in God, this choice is in the forefront of our being.

At the present time the requests are overwhelming. The need is great. Richard Driehaus has pledged another \$30,000 matching grant. As soon as we can collect \$30,000 for the poverty stricken, Richard will write a matching check for \$30,000. \$60,000 in food, shelter assistance, transportation, utilities and other daily necessities will mean so much, to so many. It has been six weeks since Richard offered the grant and we have been asking for matching funds. We are \$5000 away from our goal. Please make the choice to help us help our neighbors in desperate need. Together we can make a big difference. Together over the past years of networking through the newspapers we have accomplished much, easing the pain and suffering of poverty. Please help, please Care and Share.

Please think of the elderly and the children trying to bathe in cold water. Think of their empty cupboards and the hunger they are experiencing. Think of them saying to me as I echo their words through our Time is Now to Help column, "I feel so alone, so helpless." "I cannot help my grandchildren." and the worst pain of all is having no hope and the lonely feeling of no one to reach out to, "No hope." I quote these words to you that I have heard through tears from hungry souls. Some start shaking as I reach out and console them, but the true consolation is through all of us coming together. I cannot make the needed difference without your help. Please Care and Share.

Please network our column to your friends, relatives and business associates. It is very important. The more of us that bond together as true Americas the more help we can give, easing the burden of poverty in these tough economic times.

Health and Happiness, God Bless Everyone, WC

Richard Driehaus \$30,000 Matching Grant: Please use this opportunity to double every dollar you give. We are \$5,000 away from our goal. 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: Lorie Wuttke and Linda Siert/ Delavan Downtown Business Association for their wonderful fundraiser and all the following Delavan Businesses that participated: Memories From the Heart, Remember When Antiques, Farm-City Elevator, Community Shoppers, Lubick Gallery, Bradley's Dept. Store, Brick Street Market, The Cobblestone Peddler, Another Time, Antiques of Delavan, Aram Public Library, Beil's Bakery, Chadha Dental Clinic, City of Delavan, Community Bank, Del-Mart, Delavan Historic Foundation, Faith Christian School, FlagSource North, Hair Technique, JMJ Trading, KC Wireless, M&I Bank, Panera Bread, Pet Pals, Dr. Thomas Schuetz. Also thank you to Jamie Wisniewski, Dick & Sue Kronwall, Bob Ryan, Bev & Steve Wassam,

Russell & Sally Krause, Laura & Robert Patterson, Ron & Desiree Lipowski, Patrick & Connie Hanrahan, Dave, Sharon, Zach & Maddie Flitcroft owners of Leatherlips Water Sports, Walworth County Senior Travel Club, Ellen Flanagan, Harry & Phyllis Tiggemann, Marlene Hauch, David & Prudence Sullivan, J.D. Development, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Kunes Country Ford & Kunes Country Chevrolet & Cadillac, 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 and help to raise funds for The Time Is Now to Help. Just make 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.TimeIsNowToHelp.org