

Dear W.C.,

10/20/08

I am writing on behalf of a single mother. She has two young children. Her gas has been shut off, leaving her with no heat, and her water has been shut off for months. She has been using her neighbor's water to fill up her bathtub with buckets in order for her and her children to bathe. She does not have a working telephone so I have enclosed her address.

A Concerned Neighbor

Dear Readers,

When I received this request for help, my mind was flooded with images of what it must be like to live in a home, in this day and age, without running water, heat or gas for cooking. When I finally found the address I hurried to the door. After several minutes of unanswered knocking, my heart sank with the understanding that no one was home. I confirmed with a neighbor that I had the right location. I scouted the neighborhood due to my overwhelming desire to help, almost an hour passed by. I went back to the house hoping that our paths crossed and they would be home. Once again, there was no answer.

Several more visits had the same results but I could not forget the suffering children and mother. Finally, on yet another visit, as I knocked on the door with great hope I could hear some scrambling of feet on the other side of the door. It was the two children who were playing just on the other side of the door. I could hear one call out, "Mommy, Mommy, someone's here." On a previous visit I had placed my Time is Now to Help card in the door so the mother would understand that we were coming to help.

The mother opened the door and I introduced myself. She had a big smile on her face, looked down at the children and said, "This is the help I was talking to you about." Her oldest daughter, with bright eyes and a big smile, happily introduced herself and her younger sister. I couldn't help but think what happy children they were. I really thank God that the children are protected by the mother keeping them happy through the despair of poverty. I briefly thought back of my own moments of going through that poverty and how brave my mother was.

When the mother welcomed me in she immediately introduced me to her situation. “As you can feel, we have no heat,” she said. Her youngest daughter kept repeating, “It’s freezing. It’s freezing.” You seem to notice the coolness even more when you have no heat. Try it today by shutting off your heat. Try going to the toilet and remembering when you flush you will have to get a bucket of water to be able to flush again.

The little girls were going back and forth trying to capture my attention. I made sure I paid attention to both of them, wanting them to feel as important as they really are. After a while, the mother told me that one of the children had a disability. I saw right past it and I was focusing on the inner being of this wonderful little girl. The mother spoke proudly of both her children, especially pointing out how her oldest child could already count past a hundred, which sparked the little girl into counting. She was very intelligent for her age. She actually was gifted beyond her few years.

We reviewed the situation of her family living without heat and running water. When she showed me the small kitchen I asked how she was doing for food. She replied that she received food stamps. Sometimes people receive an ample supply of food stamps to carry them through most of the month, and sometimes the amount of food stamps is quite inadequate. In fact, I have seen as little as \$19 a month. I try to understand how these amounts are calculated but I often find children as well as adults living on very little food.

As we walked past a shelf I noticed that there were some medications. I asked what they were for and the mother replied that all three of them have asthma. The mother also told me she was being treated for depression. The mother said she only takes half the dose because one time she took the prescribed dose and as she stated she was too “out of it” to take care of her children. She was shocked that the doctor would even medicate her that much knowing she had two small children counting on her. God Bless this mother for putting her children first.

The mother explained she had been divorced for a few years and child support hardly ever came. The authorities were on the husband but his thoughts of supporting his children were overshadowed by his drinking.

I asked the mother if the children had coats. I find it useful when I am assisting a family to see what type of clothing the children have and if they

are going to be properly dressed for these upcoming winter months. One child's coat was adequate. The other child's coat was very worn and thin. They had no boots, hats or gloves.

Even though the mother had a valid driver's license, she had no car or transportation of any kind. She said she counted on her girlfriend to occasionally stop by so they could get to the food pantry and the store to turn in their food stamps.

Here in our midst is a struggling single mother, with two small children, very little food, no heat, no running water, no telephone, no transportation and just enough money coming in to pay the rent. She said that becoming homeless was a nightmare that constantly haunted her and that is why she used her monthly check to pay the rent first, and after that very little funds remained. You can see the situation here was very bleak.

After evaluating their situation, we proceeded to help. I presented a gasoline certificate for her friend who was struggling financially herself. This allowed the friend to continue to take them shopping for food with gift certificates we supplied for nourishing food. We also supplied them with gift certificates for winter coats, boots, and other clothing. I specified the type of warm winter coats I would like to see them have. She supplied me with the account numbers for the water and natural gas for the heat. I gave a promise that we would get them turned on as soon as possible.

I asked the mother if it would be okay for me to return and see the warm winter coats and clothing that she was going to get. I also supplied her with a list of places to go to get some additional clothing from the different churches and organizations that supply free clothing. You cannot always find everything you need at these organizations which is why I supplied certificates for some new clothing. I felt these children and mother needed to have the opportunity to go shopping for some new clothing and some nourishing food.

When the mother told the children they were going shopping, the children acted like it was a birthday party. They were excitedly jumping up and down and the little one kept saying, "Up. Up," to the mother so she could be lifted up to our level and look into my eyes and give a big smile expressing her happiness. As happy as they were, as I left I felt an overwhelming thankfulness to our Lord for bringing us to their aid. I know

the future will bring more visits until we can organize their life into being networked by good people and never allowing them to be cold, or without water again.

I want to thank everyone for Caring and Sharing. Once again, together we were able to ease the pain and suffering of poverty, giving hope, providing heat and water, and helping others live life with the staple items all of us have been blessed with.

*Health and Happiness, God Bless Everyone, WC*

**J.D. Development \$25,000 Matching Grant:** Please use this opportunity to double every dollar you give. 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, Dennis & Christine Haak, John & Madeline Engerman & Engerman Contracting, New Life Printing, Keith & Laurie Leitner, Bill & Georgia Gehrmann, Muriel Lake, Albert & Ellen Burnell, Charles & Hesperus Spooner, Harry & Phyllis Tiggemann, LeRoy Vogt, James & Janice Batten, Shawn & Donna McLafferty, 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.

**Needed Cars:** Once again we have a 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.Time Is Now To Help.org)