

Dear Readers,

10/27/08

I have been taking care of several requests since the last column, and we definitely seem to be in a recession. Millions of fellow Americans are suffering across our great country. We have been blessed to live in such a beautiful country; it is only the greed and misuse of our tax dollars that has put so many in an impoverished state of being. Certainly there are many that do not have to worry about impending homelessness, or having their heat, electric and water shut off, but for many fellow Americans, the recession is real. Instead of spending our tax dollars on infrastructure, job growth, and maintaining our own great country, we seem to be busy trying to impress or control the rest of the world. The end result being millions of Americans unable to find a job, unable to afford health insurance, unable to purchase clothes, unable to purchase food, leaving millions of American's going hungry, home foreclosures, all resulting in pain and suffering throughout our great country.

One of the situations I would like to share with you is a request I received for help with rent. A medical problem arose and this put the family behind on their rent, to the point of eviction and homelessness. When I approached their address I entered an area of extreme dilapidation. I later found out that the building had been condemned but just enough work was done to pass for occupancy. As I looked closer I noticed broken windows, plastic wrapped thin wood walls with holes, and a rotting roof where water could pour in on the occupants.

I was hoping that I had the wrong address. I was hoping that actually nobody was living inside, but after my brief knock someone answered the door. As I entered it only took a moment for my heart to sink thinking, "Someone is actually living in here? And they want help to continue to live in here?" I could see the inside wall where the plastic covered the outside and it was just a thin sheet of wood with no insulation. There was a large crack in the ceiling where water leaks in.

I looked around this home in terrible disrepair and noticed a clean orderly appearance. This single mom took great pride in keeping her home clean. Anything that she could attend to, she had. She told me she lived there with her two children as well as the grandmother of the children. After we spoke further she revealed to me they had been living in poverty like this for the past three years. All the recent price increases and then a medical emergency had pushed them to the point of now facing homelessness.

The mother was rather young, so her mother was also young in years; but when she appeared I thought I was being introduced to someone much older than her actual age. The grandmother expressed her weariness over worrying about the children, and how she constantly worries over financial issues. You could see that it had taken a real toll on her. They had never shared any happiness with a good man trying to help provide and to stand by their side. The children showed the promise that with a good education and proper surroundings they could excel. It is amazing how there are so many intelligent young people being deprived of an opportunity to live a life free of the painful distraction of poverty. These children were old enough to understand what they were facing. I did not see the usual happiness of children. Instead I saw the same gloom upon them that the grandmother carried with her. That's when I decided this broken family could not stay in these surroundings.

I started to express to the mother she needed to find a new place to live. She told me they did not have the money for a security deposit and first month's rent. I told her that if she could find a place to rent, which I knew was out there for the same rent she is paying now, we would supply the required first month's rent and security deposit. With that the oldest child excitedly asked, "You mean we're going to get out of here?" You could see both children looking at the mother waiting for an answer. She clearly was the head of the household. The mother looked back at me to confirm they could receive that initial help. I nodded my head yes and she looked at the children with tears in her eyes and said, "Yes, we're getting out of here." She quickly changed from defending where she was living to showing her true desire to move from this condemned building.

With that the children showed their true feelings of pent up anxiety and burst into tears, hugging the mother and the grandmother. The mother replied that just knowing they were going to get out of there would give them all the hope they needed. The oldest child agreed that they now had a goal they could share and thanked me. I replied, "Don't thank me. Thank God for bringing us together and for all those that care and share making it possible for The Time is Now to help our fellow creations.

We helped them find a new place and not only did we find a better, newer place, but the rent was actually cheaper. I made a call to the landlord filling that person with shame for allowing those children to live in mold and decay. Together as neighbors we helped them get into a very nice place. We set a budget they

could live within. We filled them with pride and dignity in a place they call home. We cannot restore the lost years of the young grandmother, but I was told by the children that they have never seen their grandmother smile and laugh as she does now. In the past her life had only known bitterness and betrayal, which showed in her accelerated aging, but she is happy now. The mother says that at every meal they express thanks to the Lord for all of you for helping them. God Bless all of you for Caring and Sharing, and making this transition to a better life possible.

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, John & Madeline Engerman & Engerman Contracting, Jim & Karen Goodrick, Flitcroft Septic Systems, Judtih Caputo, Dawn Jorgensen Heiser, William & Rose Mohr, John & Vickie Geier, 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.

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