

Dear W.C.,

11/17/08

It has come to my attention that one of our neighbors needs help. I decided to visit prior to writing a request for help. The conditions this person is living in are deplorable. If you could please visit you will see there is much help needed there.

Thank You,

A Worried Neighbor

Dear Readers,

Not only did I receive a request from the neighbor, I also received a request from the resident themselves asking for help. The letter started off very legible, but then the penmanship became very difficult to decipher. It was like two different people were writing the letter.

When I arrived for my visit, I had to bend down as I walked through the doorway as the ceiling was falling in. When I finally worked my way into the center of the kitchen, I was able to stand with just a few inches above my head before there was more destroyed ceiling. As I looked around, I noticed the cabinet doors were missing and the structure was much more dilapidated on the inside than it appeared on the outside.

As I talked with the person I noticed there were several bottles of medications. I asked if the person had not been feeling well. The person informed me they had several mental disorders, including bipolar disorder and schizophrenia among others. The person continued to explain the several medications, one or two for each associated problem, for a total of six different medications.

As we spoke for approximately an hour I witnessed the mood swings. With that I understood the letter with the varying handwriting. This person went from being able to stand and communicate very effectively to sitting on a broken chair holding their head between their hands and barely able to function. Then once again, after a period of time, they returned to communicate with no problem.

There was little to no food, and it was easy to see the food that was there was being shared by other inhabitants – rodents. My impression after the first 60 seconds, as would be most anyone's walking into that house, was

“maybe we should talk outside”. Something inside of me told me to stay so I could understand what conditions this person was constantly living in, and had been for the past year and a half. It would be a lot easier for me to give some food certificates and some quick help for utilities and run out the door to my sanctuary which would be anywhere but there. But that is not what was put upon my heart, so I continued to ask questions and listened intently.

In a short time trust was formed. I was getting real answers and I was showing my genuine feelings of wanting to help, which was greatly and whole-heartedly accepted. At one point the person broke down in tears. I asked, “What is the matter?” The person answered, “I have somebody to talk to, somebody who is not afraid to talk to me, and I also feel you really do want to help.” At that moment I felt so sorry for this person, not only living in these conditions, but having lived alone and so lost.

There are so many hardships in this world. Poverty is one of them; another is the mental capability to just cope day to day. We need to thank our Lord for the blessings of being able to make the right decisions and being able to be as mentally competent as we are. The more positive we can be about ourselves, the better we can communicate, the more stable our lives will be. This person was trying to live in the midst of the pains of poverty, and the only help given were prescription medications. As I saw these great mood swings I asked about the medications. We talked about them for awhile. I asked about the two different doctors who prescribed the medications. I questioned if they were communicating with each other as to what they were prescribing. The answer was, “Yes, occasionally.” The person picked up one of the bottles and held it out saying “When I take this one I feel sick.” I asked if the doctor had been told that and the person replied, “No.” I said how important it was for the doctors to receive feedback, especially if there is a side effect. I told the person to inform both doctors and the person replied they would.

We talked about Health and Human Services and about housing. This person informed me that as far as housing is concerned the waiting list was so long they never applied. I asked how long they had been living there. When they told me over a year, I responded that possibly the person could have been out of there by now and into proper living conditions. I asked if the person wouldn't be as depressed if the living conditions were better. The

person looked around and said, "Yes, of course." Once again, the pains of poverty take their toll.

This person needed help with food and needed to get into a shelter and out of these deplorable conditions. They have applied for housing assistance and are waiting. There are many situations like this one throughout our communities, hidden from most of us. There are many conditions of poverty happening throughout America. We have to offer help and hope to those in need around us.

I want to thank everyone for Caring and Sharing. May we continue to do the much needed good works for the so many that are hurting.

*Health and Happiness, God Bless Everyone, WC*

**J.D. Development \$25,000 Matching Grant** Thanks to all of your generosity we have met the J.D. Development \$25,000 Matching Grant. In the near future we will update you on where every penny was spent. Thanks again for all of your Caring & Sharing.

**Summertime Foundation \$10,000 Matching Grant:** We have been graciously blessed with another matching funds grant beginning immediately. The Summertime Foundation will match, dollar for dollar, every contribution up to \$10,000. Thank you to the Summertime Foundation for this wonderful opportunity. We all know really hard times have hit our fellow American's. Together our Caring & Sharing will help ease the pain of living in poverty for many.

**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, United Way of Delavan-Darien, Kunes Country Ford & Kunes Country Chevrolet & Cadillac, Dick & Jean Honeyager, John & Madeline Engerman & Engerman Contracting, Elkhorn Chemical & Packaging, Flitcroft Septic Systems, Peterson Drywall, James & Janice Batten, Donna & Shawn McLafferty, Geri Hinton, Marlene Hauch, 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.

**Memorials:** The following donation was given in memory of Phyllis Sievert: Glen & Ellen Wiedenhoeft. The following donation was given in memory of Ruth O'Connor: Richard & Elizabeth Czaja.

**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](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.timeisnowtohelp.org](http://www.timeisnowtohelp.org)