

2/07/11

**Christmas Wish \$25,000 Matching Grant = \$50,000 in Poverty Assistance**

“Thank You” to everyone that contributed to the Christmas Wish \$25,000 Matching Grant. With your generosity and the generous donors of the matching funds, we were able to provide \$50,000 in much needed assistance to the many struggling poverty stricken in our area. This matching grant was a Christmas Wish answered for those in need of assistance. It seems as though with every visit and phone call I make the need is greater, the desperation more intense, the fear and hunger magnified. Many hours of research, phone calls, counseling, and prayer went into each of these visits. The recession is driving our fellow American’s into a depression behind their closed doors. Their tears and fears are a reality that breaks my heart continuously.

My goal is always to bring the emergency assistance needed, as soon as possible, to put people back on their feet again with dignity. We have offered them relief from that daily struggle and they can now get through this winter warm and fed thanks to your generosity.

With this column we are also sharing our 400<sup>th</sup> column. It is hard to believe we have been sharing this mission with all our caring and sharing readers for that long. So many of our neighbors and fellow creations have been given the assistance they so desperately needed, thanks to our devoted readers/donors.

Thank you again for Caring & Sharing. Together we remove the pain and suffering of this recession for our fellow American’s, making our communities a better place to live.

**THIS IS HOW WE HELPED:**

**RENT = \$17,840.14**

Rent/shelter assistance is always our largest area of support. Nearly every letter we receive is asking for housing/rent/shelter assistance. The fear of homelessness can be overwhelming and all consuming. Housing assistance continues to be overwhelmed with requests. Some people turn to us when they have already lost their apartment or home and are living out of cars or in unsuitable conditions for children. We then provide emergency housing to give them a place to keep warm and safe. We give these people the time needed to obtain affordable housing. For many we prevent both adults and children from experiencing the fear and shame of homelessness.

**UTILITIES = Gas: \$7,677.40; Electricity: \$6,494.00; Water: \$775; Telephone: \$1,250**

Many of our fellow creation are living with minimal or no electricity and gas. Senior citizens, children, the handicapped are wearing coats in their homes to keep warm. If they are living without utilities some are using dangerous space heaters to provide heat. These can have unfortunate consequences. Old homes and furnaces can cause very high utility bills. Some families choose to nearly shut down their utilities in order to afford food and

prescription medications. They have to choose between feeding their family and keeping them warm. We have removed this difficult choice for many people. We have enabled them to keep their home, apartment, or trailer heated. Senior citizens and families with young children have been able to keep their lights and refrigerators on. God bless you for your caring and sharing.

### **FOOD = \$5,826.78**

Your donations provided 10,526 lbs. of food for the W.C. Family Resource Center. We also provided emergency food assistance to many people living with empty cupboards and refrigerators. When we find such a need for food, we immediately fill those empty cupboards and empty stomachs. Over Christmas and beyond many families were given emergency food assistance. Children were on Christmas vacation and missed their school provided meals. This puts an even bigger food burden on people that are struggling with joblessness or illness. Together, we have eased the pain of hunger for many.

### **TOILETRIES = \$760.00**

We were able to provide toilet paper, diapers, sanitary products, tooth brushes, tooth paste, soap, etc. to many of our recipients. On some of my visits I saw people living without the most basic toiletries. Every child should have toilet paper, soap, tooth paste, and a tooth brush. Every woman should have access to feminine products. Every baby should have clean diapers. God bless you for caring and sharing so we can continue to help our fellow American's with the most basic needs, providing humane comfort, basic hygiene, and self dignity.

### **HOUSEHOLD NECESSITIES = \$646.00**

A family that lost everything was provided with every day necessities. We also provided cleaning supplies, light bulbs, smoke detectors, eating utensils, pots, pans, and other daily necessities to those in need. Senior citizens and the handicapped with old or inadequate small appliances were provided with new and safe ones. Thank you for helping those in need.

### **TRANSPORTATION = Repairs: \$2,743.87; Gas: \$3,421.50**

We continue to work hard to provide safe transportation for our recipients. We were able to provide repairs to over six vehicles and new tires for a hard working single mother. Her car was in fair shape but unsafe to drive due to bald tires and unsafe brakes. You provided this mother with safe transportation for herself and her children. We also provide gas vouchers for many people. Gas costs continue to be a problem in most budgets, yet it is impossible to do without since most gas is used to drive to and from work or for important health care. Families often need to drive to Milwaukee for the medical care needed for their young children. Many people drive great distances to the only available jobs.

### **CLOTHING = \$571.56**

A young mother that was starting a new job needed suitable clothes for work. Children without coats and winter clothing were happy to go to school warm and comfortable for the first time this winter. Shoes and boots will now keep feet warm and dry. Socks and

undergarments were needed for many individuals. Thank you for providing them with what they are often too embarrassed to ask for.

**HANDICAPPED ASSISTANCE = \$1993.75**

Handicapped individuals were living without items necessary to make their lives easier. Emergency household help was provided for a fellow creation struggling to live on their own. Glasses were provided for an elderly mentally handicapped woman that could not afford such a luxury. Now she is happy to be able to clearly see again. Life is very hard for our disabled neighbors. Everything that is easy for you and I is almost insurmountable for them. They need our caring and sharing to help them to live life without the constant struggle and stress of their disability compounded by poverty.

**TOTAL: \$50,000**

The Time Is Now to Help, and the many families, seniors, handicapped, and children we helped, are extremely thankful for all you have provided. Thanks to the Christmas Wish \$50,000 Matching Grant we have eased the pain of poverty for many. All the above categories show where every penny of your donation was put to work. Our many neighbors in need are thankful for your generosity and Caring and Sharing.

Together we were able to grant the Christmas Wish requests of many of our fellow creations in need. I thank all of you, and the God loving providers of the Christmas Wish \$50,000 Matching Grant, for your support to *The Time Is Now to Help*. Together we make a big difference in the lives of many. God Bless all of you for making all our good works possible.

*Health & Happiness, God Bless Everyone, W.C.*

**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 Very Special Thank You:** Sue & Michael Borden, Paul Ziegler, William H. & Lois J. McEssy Foundation, Martin O'Brien, Dean & LeeAnne Wolanyk in honor of Dr. Mark Brower, Robert & Barbara Hogan, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Our Redeemer Lutheran Ladies Aid, Sylvester & Virginina Seick, Albert & Ellen Burnell, Frank Huml, Jr., Lillian Rudolf, Jean Zitzler, Marion Christoph, Joseph & Maureen Shaughnessy, Robert & Shirley Lipinski, Helen Henrickson, Gene Krauklis, Shawna Kneipper, Lisa Loepke, Mary Cucchi, Heidi Hall, Jeanne Mc Donald, Joanne Abbe, Diane Palma, Aurora Health Care Partnership Campaign participants, James & Marilyn Dyer, Gerard & Barbara Makovec, Philip & Helen Joyce, Clara Berger, James & Janice Batten, Deborah Fink, JT Marty, Lloyd Cornue, Estelle Reeder, Roberta Hunt, W.C. Family Resource Center/Food Pantry volunteers, and all the God loving volunteers of all our caring food pantries, 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:** Audrey & Marv Hersko in memory of Donald Wunderlin & Barbara Hersko. Hazel & Gary Schopp in memory of their daughter Sandy Arnold. Doreen Thusius in memory of Mary Huisheere.

**We Desperately Need Cars:** Please donate a used car to help our fellow American's get to work and other daily necessities.

**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 and pick The Time Is Now to Help as your charity.

Please visit: [www.timeisnowtohelp.org](http://www.timeisnowtohelp.org)