

Dear W.C.,

March 14, 2011

I am an older woman with a grown daughter. I recently had to take in my daughter after she was physically attacked by her ex-husband. She has a fourteen month old baby. I also have a disabled woman living with me as well. Her parents were friends of mine for years and when they passed away I took her in. She is very capable but not able to live on her own. I have very limited vision so we help each other.

We are having a very hard time financially. Our disability payments are not enough to cover our food, rent, utilities, medications and my daughter and granddaughters expenses. We were just getting by if we lived very frugally before my daughter moved in. I know my daughter feels bad for putting me in this position but she had nowhere else to go after her alcoholic ex-husband beat her. When she called me from the hospital, she was living in another state. She had a restraining order against her ex-husband but it did no good. He came after her one night and beat her severely. I told her she and the baby had to escape and live with us. I told her I could not live knowing she was being exposed to her sadistic ex-husband. She left everything and drove eight hours in her run down old car to get away from him. Thank God he has been put in jail on another violent charge that happened after my daughter left. She feels relieved he cannot get to her or her baby for now.

We really need some help until my daughter can get a job.

### Struggling Women

Dear Readers,

I called the number listed on the letter. An older sounding woman answered and was so happy to hear it was The Time Is Now to Help calling. I told the woman I would come by right away to talk.

I found the apartment building and knocked on the door. It was answered by who I assumed was the daughter. She looked to be around thirty years old and had a very wary look on her face. She looked around me nervously and asked for identification. After she was sure I was who I said I was she invited me inside. Two older women were playing with a beautiful baby on the living room floor. I noticed how bundled everyone was, including the baby. It was cold and dim in the apartment. I could tell the women were very happy I was there. The daughter was still reserved and quiet. I invited her to stay and talk as well.

We talked about their living arrangements. The older women were sharing one room and the younger woman and baby were sharing the other. She did not have a crib as it was left behind in her haste to leave. They were also low on diapers and other household necessities. I felt terrible knowing the baby had to wait for diaper changes so they would not run out. Many years ago, when The Time Is Now to Help was first started, one of the first necessities supplied to homeless women and babies in need, were diapers. Now, many years later, I still run into people unable to buy diapers for their children.

I asked the older women about their disabilities. I found the mentally disabled woman to be a lovely charming woman. She had limited abilities as far as speech but the two women seemed to have quite a rapport. I could tell they were good for each other. The woman with limited vision was legally blind and unable to work. She could maneuver her apartment and places she knew, but not drive. The daughter said she was worried about her mom living alone with the disabled woman, but after living with them she has changed her mind. She said they enable each other to live independently.

I spoke with the daughter about her work abilities. She said she was a CNA before she got married two years earlier. She also said she could do office work, waitress... She was eager to work. I gave her a few leads on where to go for employment. She was very grateful. She planned on continuing to live with her mother and wanted to contribute to their household expenses. She said she felt like a burden and was very sad with the turn her life has taken. She started to cry and told her mother she was sorry. Her mother hugged her and told her she would not have it any other way. The mother and her friend loved having them. I told her she was now on the right path protecting both herself and her child. After our conversation she seemed much less reserved and even relieved.

Together, The Time Is Now to Help supplied them with vouchers for some diapers and household necessities. I gave them information about the food pantry and other services available to them. The daughter told me that her car was in need of brakes and tires. We had these repairs completed to supply them with a safe vehicle. I also located a crib and new mattress for the baby. They were very grateful for our assistance.

Several weeks later I paid them another visit. They were happy to announce the daughter had obtained a job from one of the leads I had given her. They were very grateful for the repaired vehicle that brought her to and from work and daycare safely. The women were very thankful to have sufficient food and baby necessities. We brought their utilities up to date. This helped them to get a fresh start with the daughter's first paycheck. Together, they are now happy, independent and living life, as all our good fellow Americans should be. God Bless all of you for your caring and sharing hearts enabling us to help this struggling family.

We are happy to announce the Summertime Foundation \$5000 Matching Grant has been met. There are many living in poverty waiting for our assistance. Thank you for helping.

*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:** Summertime Foundation, Michael & Sue Borden, Rebuild & Restore LLC, The Petco Foundation, Peterson Drywall, Four Seasons Flooring, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Martin O'Brien, Bonita Breit, Lee & Barb Zuzanek, Frank & Mary Gauger in honor of Pauline Malsch's Birthday, Frank & Florence Bogyos, Michael & Nancy McCabe, Douglas & Janet Muzatko, Marvin & Audrey Hersko, Charles & Kathleen Heinz, Sidney Johnson, John & Sandra Dietschweiler, Ruth Przewoznik, 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.

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

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