

Lake Geneva Area Realty \$40,000 Matching Grant Met

Thank you to everyone that wrote letters, emailed, encouraged, liked on Facebook, and donated to The Time Is Now to Help. Your response to the CNN Heroes story has been overwhelming. I never expected such an outpouring of compassion and love for what we do. Together we ease the pains of poverty for our fellow creations. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

I wanted to share one of the emails I received this past week. Dan Gray from Canada was inspired to write the following poem after watching our story on CNN:

Your Helping Hands

You have extra strength to share with those, who do not have a dime,
you pay attention to those of whom most would turn a blind eye,
you receive a call for help you answer few questions asked,
no red tape involved, because it's a reminder of your past.

By turning on the power you shed some light on how many people live,
By feeding them, teaching them, you put smiles on faces of kids,
You're the person you wish you had when things weren't working out,
When you're life as a child was filled with uncertainty and doubt.

Alas you will never let a family down as long as you shall live,
you made a promise with the lord and he has granted you the ability to give,
You will never know the magnitude of what you do every day,
but you find reward in a face in a smile, that so many have turned away.

May god bless you and keep you safe, so you can continue on,
May someone read this column and do the same, even when you're gone,
May you're faith in the father, inspire everyone to lend a hand,
An Inspiration to many may you continue to find hope in your fellow man.

Thank you, Dan for your words of encouragement. Without ever meeting me you captured the essence of The Time Is Now to Help.

I am pleased to announce that we have completed the Lake Geneva Area Realty \$40,000 Matching Grant. This brings our total assistance to those in need to \$80,000. The following is a breakdown of how your donations were spent. Thank you for Caring and Sharing.

Housing Assistance: \$26,364.90

This housing assistance was crucial to many families, senior citizens, and disabled. Many were on the verge of homelessness or already were homeless. We provided rental assistance to victims of abuse and their children, families suffering due to job loss, and handicapped

individuals unable to pay their rent after overwhelming medical expenses. We helped senior citizens keep a roof over their heads. We provided emergency shelter for several families. God bless all of you for providing housing assistance to our fellow Americans in need.

**Utility Assistance: Water: \$573.24; Electric: \$10,718.70; Gas: \$9,250.00;
Telephone: \$1,900.00 = \$22,441.94**

It always amazes me how many people in America, in 2011, suffer without water, electric, and gas. I found people that actually went to work each day but could not afford running water. I had to ask very personal questions about how they maintained their personal hygiene in order to work. There were senior citizens and single mothers with children without lights and, very important these last few hot weeks, without air-conditioning. The heat is especially dangerous to children and senior citizens as they often do not realize they have heat exhaustion until it is much too late. It is also very dangerous to those living with health problems like COPD and heart disease.

Natural gas may not be as important this time of year for heat, but it still is needed for cooking and water heaters. Telephones are very important to senior citizens, and the handicapped, for safety. For many fellow creations the telephone is their only form of communication with anyone outside their homes. God bless all of you for helping provide much needed utility assistance.

Food Assistance: \$12,040

We provided the W.C. Family Resource Center with \$5,000 in food from Feeding America (formerly known as Second Food Harvest). This in turn will provide over 26,316 lbs. of food for the food pantry that now serves over 500 families a month. If each family has at least three people in it, this equals over 1,500 people per month. God bless Jim and Ardith Drescher, and all the God loving volunteers of this and all the food pantries.

We also provided \$7,040 in emergency food through gift cards and grocery purchases. There are many hungry people in our midst. Now that school is out for the summer children are not receiving their free and reduced price breakfasts and lunches. These meals now have to be provided by a parent or guardian that is struggling to find a job or working just to keep from becoming homeless. We filled empty cupboards and refrigerators. We brought substantial meals to hungry senior citizens living on very little food. Thank you for providing this most appreciated gift of life, food for our fellow creations. God bless you.

Auto Assistance: \$10,613.58

We provided two cars for single mother's that had been waiting a very long time for a donated vehicle. These women want to keep their jobs and provide for their families. They cannot do this without a safe running vehicle. We also registered these cars so they did not have to worry about this expense as well. We had two vehicle's repaired to good working order. We provided over \$5,000 in gas assistance. Many people are suffering due to the high

cost of gas. Commuting for work and medical appointments has become much more expensive this past year and has pushed many budgets beyond their means. Thank you for helping the families keep their jobs. Please remember we still have many people on a waiting list for cars. Please consider donating your used car in the future.

Beds: \$394.00

A mattress and box spring was purchased for a senior citizen that was sleeping on a couch. The mattress on their bed was so old and misshapen they had taken to sleeping on their old couch propped up on pillows. We gave them a new bed which they said has given them new life. What a difference a good night sleep makes in your health and your outlook.

Medical Assistance: \$2,040.68

While The Time Is Now to Help does not pay medical bills, we do offer assistance with emergency dental and eyeglasses. We removed the pain of cavities for a child. We paid for new front teeth for a woman that lost hers due to her abusive ex-husband. For years she lived in shame, hiding her mouth from co-workers, because she was unable to pay for teeth. She now shares her smile and feels she can move up at work since she is not held back by her lack of confidence. We also provided emergency dental for a handicapped individual suffering with pain due to lack of dental care. God bless the dentists for helping with the costs of these procedures and for your help in making these lives much happier.

Glasses were provided for a senior woman unable to read, drive, or watch television due to her lack of eyeglasses. Her comment to me after she put on her glasses was, "You and everyone at The Time Is Now to Help are angels." Yes, you are all angels for providing this very important form of assistance, clear eyesight.

Household Necessities: \$2,204.00; Toiletries: \$1,652.50; Clothing: \$1,450.00=\$5,306.50

For those of you that have not read our columns in the past, I will review what items these entail. Household necessities include dishes, blankets, towels, sheets, pots & pans, and utensils. It also can include toaster ovens and other small appliances. You would be amazed how many people live without these items. When we provide a family with a security deposit and rent we often include household necessities where needed. Many senior citizens are graciously thankful for these much needed items.

Toiletries are items we all use every day. Toothpaste, tooth brushes, hair brushes, soap, shampoo, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, diapers, and toilet paper. These just seem to be more and more expensive every day. When you do not have dental insurance and cannot afford a dental visit you had better be able to brush your teeth regularly. How can you keep a job if you do not maintain a level of cleanliness that is acceptable to your co-workers? What does a woman do when she cannot afford feminine hygiene products or cannot buy diapers for her baby? These are all problems for the poverty stricken we address on a daily basis.

Clothing was provided for those starting new jobs and families with children. Some of these recipients were either homeless or just escaped abusive relationships where they left with only the clothing on their backs. Thank you for providing clothing for our fellow Americans in need.

Handicapped Assistance: \$798.40

While we provide assistance to those suffering with disabilities in all categories, this one focuses specifically on the needs of the handicapped. We provided suitable walkers for senior citizens. We repaired an electric wheel chair. These things made their lives much easier by increasing their mobility. They are all thankful for your generosity.

Total Assistance: \$80,000

I am very proud of what we have accomplished together with this matching grant. Thank you to all that participated and donated. I also want to thank the many donors that were motivated to give after watching The Time Is Now to Help on CNN and on www.cnn.com/heroes. Welcome to our family of caring and sharing. God Bless all of you.

Health and Happiness, God Bless Everyone, WC/Sal

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: Lake Geneva Area Realty, Elaine Hamilton, Dennis R. & Michele W. Baltzley, Lake Geneva Community New Years Committee, Dave's Cadillac Service, Heinz's Diamond Motors, Verlo Mattress Factory, Richard & Jean Honeyager, Martin O'Brien, Gerald & Thelma Meyer, John & Sandra Dietschweiler, Senior Solutions Simplified, Diane & Roland Schroeder, Michael Glass, Thomas & Donna Labecki, Herman & Elizabeth Gudeman, Bob & Jennifer Sarnowski, Ellen Flanagan, Willis Hoerler, Robert & Barbara Zwolinski, Judith Hellenga, Joyce Tenpenny, 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: Les & Pauline Malsch in memory of Jason Fiegel.

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 and help to raise funds for The Time Is Now to Help. Just make www.goodsearch.com your

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

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org