

August Blessings \$25,000 Matching Grant

We are happy to tell everyone about a new matching grant opportunity. The gracious donors of the August Blessings \$25,000 Matching Grant are wonderful people that truly care about their fellow creations. They wish to help alleviate the pain and suffering of poverty for our fellow American's. For every dollar donated they will match it with another, up to \$25,000. God bless you donors and friends. Together we are making a big difference in many lives.

Dear W.C.,

I am asking for help for my friend. She has been struggling with cancer for the three months. She continued to work until recently. She began a round of chemotherapy last month and it seems to have taken everything out of her. She has been unable to return to work since beginning this treatment. She has applied for disability but was denied. Her parents are no longer living and she has no siblings. I am the only person that helps her but I cannot help her financially. I am a single mother with two children and do not have a penny to spare. Can you please help my friend with her rent and utilities until she can return to work?

A Very Concerned Friend

Dear Readers,

I called the friend that wrote the letter requesting our assistance. She was very happy to hear it was The Time Is Now to Help calling to help her friend in need. I set up a time to visit the woman in need when the friend would be there to introduce us. She said her friend needed help as soon as possible so we agreed to meet at the friend's apartment that night. She warned me her friend had just been through a chemo treatment a few days before and would be very weak and sick. I assured her I was there to help and could handle whatever situation we encountered. She thanked me and told me her friends spirit had been broken between financial devastation and her overwhelming illness. This woman needed our support and hope.

I arrived several minutes before the friend arrived and looked around while I waited. The apartment actually was a lower level in a small house she rented. When the friend arrived we walked around to a rear entrance and down some stairs. The friend let herself in explaining her friend left the door open so she could check on her at all hours. She said she was often too weak to even answer the door. The basement was dark, damp, and musty, as I had suspected. It was not a good environment for someone struggling with cancer and its torturous treatments. I knew the first thing we would have to do was find her suitable

housing that she could afford. I also noted there was no air-conditioning or windows to speak of to let fresh air in. The light bulbs in the ceiling were dim and did not provide enough light in the windowless basement.

The woman was asleep on an old couch. She looked pale and thin. Her remaining hair was in thin tufts. My heart went out to this woman struggling with such a horrible illness on her own. I thanked the friend for bringing her to our attention. When we began to talk the woman opened her eyes and looked disoriented. When she saw her friend was there for her she gave her a weak smile. When she noticed me she looked confused. Her friend went to her side and helped her to sit up. She handed her a glass of water but the woman turned her head away. She insisted she take a sip and then began to tell her why I was there and about The Time Is Now to Help.

After she gave her a brief explanation I introduced myself. I took her frail hand in mine and held it for several minutes. I told her we were there to help her. The friend had brought a can of soup and some crackers to try and get her to eat. While she prepared the food in a microwave, the only cooking appliance I saw in the room, I began to ask the woman some questions. She was very weak but was able to express her fear about becoming homeless. She said she had not paid her rent or her utilities for the last month. I asked what she was paying for rent and I could not believe that was what they were charging for that small space. There was one room and a small bathroom. I was even more determined to get her into a better environment.

After only about a half hour of talking the woman could no longer remain sitting up. She apologized for her weak state and quickly drifted off to sleep again. In that small amount of time we had talked about her financial state and her treatments. She was on her last round of chemo and was hoping to return to her job in six weeks. She did not have any benefits or receive any assistance. The only reason she had survived so far was because her friend had been there to help. She drove her to and from treatments, when her job allowed. She brought her food from the food pantry when she could. Often times the woman was too sick to even open a can of soup herself, so the friend would bring her whatever her own children were eating.

I left that night with a promise to the friend that I would do my best to get the woman the help she so desperately needed. After several calls I found a rental that a gracious landlord offered to her with two months free rent. They also had some furniture that the previous renters had left behind. I went to see the small duplex and was very pleased by the rental. It was a one bedroom with air-conditioning, no stairs, and like new appliances. Everything was clean and the furniture was in place. I paid the security deposit to the landlord and thanked

him for his kindness. I had several volunteers come in to put new sheets and bedding on the new mattress we had provided. They also added some welcoming touches and food in the refrigerator and cabinets. I then went to see about moving the woman in her weakened state.

When I arrived the friend had already packed the woman's meager belongings. The woman admitted to selling all her belongings to help pay her bills. We helped her in the friend's car and were finally out of the dark, unhealthy surroundings. When we arrived at the new rental, only a few blocks from the friend's rental, the woman was in tears. She clung to my arm as I helped her to walk inside. When she saw the recliner, the new bed, and sun shining through the windows, she began to smile. She asked the friend and me to sit next to her for a minute. She took both of our hands, closed her eyes, and said a prayer of thanks. She thanked God for her friend that brought us to her aid, and she thanked God for The Time Is Now to Help for giving her the strength and desire to live again. We all added our own prayers of thanks and by the time we were finished we all had tears in our eyes. Thank you for your caring and sharing to bring assistance to this struggling fellow creation. 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: August Blessings Donors, Albert & Geraldine Hinton, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Verlo Mattress Factory, Richard & Jean Honeyager, Martin O'Brien, James & Marilynn Dyer, Mary Griffin, Carolyn Brown, Amanda Haynes, Helen Gurr, Monica Treitmeier-McCarthy, Laura White, Alison White, Kathleen Selinger, Andrew MacDonald, Rose Driscoll, Andromeda Bucholtz, Edward Paredes, Jose Gomez-Marquez, Adrienne Gaylor, Rebecca Livesay, Marci Crawford, Jeffrey Stark, Carol Ward, Barbara Niccum, Daniel Baldwin, Lona Alexander, Toni Roberson, William & Jean Isaacson, Thomas & Sally Bartelson, Ruth Morss, Jack Mallory, Vicki Hock, Wendy Grant-Hardin, Annette Flood, Joel Jones, Valentin & Ludmila Romanyuk, Chad & Natalie Levanetz, Nancy Madley, Jane & Harvey Peck, Randy Moan, Michael Butler, Sr., Kathryn Alder, William & Carol Perkins, Patty & Sid Johnson, Elva Gallagher, Abbott Laboratories Employee Giving Campaign, Jack & Barbara Rowe, David & Linda Petech, Dan Mehring, Hugh & Marilu Smith, Frank & Martha Zigmond, 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: Janice Irvine in memory of Keith Tiffany.

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Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org