

Dear W.C.,

I am scheduled for hip surgery in a few weeks. I am only in my fifties but require a hip replacement. I will be off work for quite some time. I am on my feet all the time for my job so my doctor wants me completely recovered before I return to work. I have applied for unemployment compensation but it will not be decided on until after my rent and utilities are due. I am in so much pain I have already taken as many days off work that I am allowed. I have one teenage daughter still living at home. She works and is just able to support herself with food, gas, insurance and other necessities. She has been very helpful with caring for me and our apartment. Could The Time Is Now to Help assist me with my rent this month so I do not have to worry about becoming homeless while recovering from surgery?

Dear Readers,

I remember the pain my mother endured with her own hips and knees. She endured many surgeries with long recoveries and hours of physical therapy. She lived in constant pain and suffering due to the degenerative bone disease she had beginning at age 19. If this man was suffering the same pain my mother experienced I knew he would need our help to get through this difficult time.

I was met at the door of the apartment by who I assumed was the teenage daughter. I showed my identification and the daughter invited me inside. The daughter showed me to where her father was seated in the kitchen. I could see he was struggling to get out of his chair to greet me so I quickly rushed over and told him to please not get up. He slowly lowered back into his chair and I could see the familiar look of pain I used to see on my own mothers face. His face actually got very pale for a minute as he closed his eyes and took several deep breaths. The daughter rubbed his back and waited for it to pass before asking if there was anything we needed. The father managed to smile at his daughter and said, "Thank you dear. You better head to work. Sal and I will be fine." We all said our goodbyes and the daughter left.

The father looked after her proudly. When she was out the door he said, "I am so grateful I have such a good daughter. She is what keeps me going and gives me strength." I asked a few questions about the daughter, her schooling, her job and if he had any other family to help. He told me how the mother of his daughter had left him to live a life of drugs and alcohol when his daughter was still an infant. She had signed over all custody and rights when she learned she would have to pay child support. He agreed to not receive any child support and the mother did not reappear in their lives until the daughter turned ten. At that time the mother was very ill and died a year later from the years of abuse and neglect to her body. He told me how hard the loss was for his daughter after just getting to know her but the experience had actually been a good deterrent to keep the daughter from experimenting with that lifestyle. The father told me how she often spoke about her mother and the poor choices she had made in her life. The daughter had plans to attend college and make a career for herself in nursing.

We spoke about his degenerative bone disease and upcoming surgery. The father said it was a necessity as he could no longer function with the amount of pain he was in. He said he did not want to take pain medications as they made him very ill. He had been to physical therapy and done every other therapy possible short of surgery to keep him mobile. His only option at this point was to have a hip replacement. The father shared with me his fear of surgery and how he worried what would happen to his daughter if he was not there for her. I did my best to reassure him he would not only get through the surgery but be the father he used to be before the pain took over his life. He grasped my hand and started to cry as he said, "I have no one I can share this fear with. Thank you for listening to me ramble on..." I grasped his hand in return and said, "I am not just here to offer financial help, I am here to help you in any way I can." I shared with him the many surgeries my own mother went through and how strong she was as she faced each challenge. This reassured him in his own ability to get through this future obstacle.

We went over the father and daughters budget. Just as the father had said, the daughter was paying her own way as best she could. She worked hard and went to school. The daughter was not able to help with the rent or utilities with the minimum wage she was earning. The father had been paying these expenses out of his pay. With the loss of his income they faced certain homelessness. I saw with some minor tweaks in their budget they could get by once his unemployment began. His rent was past due and he had a large utility bill that was overdue. These were paid by The Time is Now to Help, along with the following months rent and a little extra on the utility bill. This would give them the financial cushion they needed to get them through the next six weeks of surgery and rehabilitation. I asked the father about his job prospects when he was finally able. The father said, "My boss has been completely understanding about this. I have worked for him for years. He has told me my job will be waiting for me, and if I can't get back to that amount of activity he has a desk job he can offer me until I am ready." That was good news and gave the father and daughter some peace of mind knowing a job would be waiting for him when he was ready.

I asked the father about their food and toiletries. These are two areas that are usually added on to most assistance we provide. The average family cost for food and hygiene continues to rise faster than their pay increase. The father said they ate simply and often his daughter brought him home something to eat from her job at a restaurant. Her boss is a kind hearted woman that had offered this help when she had learned about her father's struggles. They did need some help with toiletries so these were provided.

I visited the father about month after his surgery. The father and daughter were walking slowly outside. The father was walking with a cane but no longer wincing with each step. He had a smile on his face when he saw me approaching and this time shook my hand eye to eye. I asked how things were going and they both answered together, "Great!" The father said he could not believe he had put off the surgery for so long. "I should have done this a year ago." he said. After a short walk inside the father settled in a chair and showed me his utility statement. He still had a small amount of credit remaining and his rent was paid for one more month. This all helped to ease the strain on their budget. I checked to make sure there was food in the refrigerator. The daughter showed me two plates made up for her father

for lunch and dinner, because she was leaving for work soon. They both looked healthy and balanced. The apartment was clean and the father looked well cared for. The father looked at his daughter with affection as he told her, "I am so thankful for all you have done to care for me. I love you very much. You are a true blessing from God." The daughter looked embarrassed over this as most girls her age do. She answered him, "Oh Dad. You know I love you too. You are good practice for me when I become a nurse." We all shared a laugh over this.

My dear friends, poverty is causing great pain among our fellow creations. Let us stand together and continue our good works of removing the pains of poverty. God Bless all of "You" for helping those in desperate need.

Health & Happiness, God Bless Everyone, W.C./Sal

The Time Is Now to Help Fundraiser: Please join the White River Cycle Club on Saturday, July 26, 2014 for The Festival Summer Bike Ride 2014. Ride proceeds will be donated to The Time Is Now to Help to provide food for families in need. There are several different routes to choose from and lunch will be provided for all riders. Visit www.whiterivercycleclub.com for more information and a registration form.

Please Help: There are many coming to us in desperation. Our good fellow creations need our compassion. Together we make a big difference. Make checks payable to: The Time Is Now to Help, P.O. Box 1, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. 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 how your donation provided assistance for the poverty stricken.

A Very Special Thank You: Clarence & Marilyn Schawk, Fox Charities, Martin Group, John Stensland & Family, American Culinary Federation-Geneva Lake Chapter, Dick & Jean Honeyager, The Harold & Bernice DeWeerd Family Foundation, Kathleen & Brian Hurdis Charitable Fund, Badger High School FFA, Big Foot Country Club Lady Golfers, Michael Glass, Margaret Plevak, Karin Collamore, Alex Dahlstrom, Denise Sifuentes, Stephen Ahlgren, Nancy Geidel, Gregory Swanson, J.T. Marty, Douglas Thorp, William Davit, Richard & Christine Costa, Margaret Guidarelli, Jamie Gwaltney, Beth & Jody Rendall, Albert & Ellen Burnell, Gerald & Marilyn Wilkin, Mary Berry, Susan Leonard, Karen Anderson, Melvin & Katherine McGaughey, W.C. Family Resource Center/Food Pantry volunteers, and all the God loving volunteers of all our caring 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: Kathryn Roen in memory of her mother Darlene Roen Parks. Michael & Karen Hohman in memory of Darlene Roen Parks.

Carla Matz in memory of Harry Bublitz & Heidi Danner.

Side by Side Fundraiser: Please support Side by Side, Inc., a local nonprofit, volunteer group which provides help to residents in need. Fundraiser: Tuesday, July 29th, Simple Restaurant. Servings at 5, 6 and 7pm. Tickets \$10 for adults. Purchase at the door that

night. Advance sales at member churches.

Furniture Donations: Please contact Love, Inc. for all your furniture, clothing and household item donations. Call 262-763-2743 or 262-763-6226 to schedule pick-up.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org