

Dear W.C.,

I'm writing to see if you can help my husband and I. We have been struggling for the past month due to our car needing repairs we can't afford. My husband has been continuing to try and drive the car even though it breaks down and he either gets stuck at work or doesn't even make it there. Lately the car does not start and he has to plead with one of his coworkers to try and get a ride to work. His boss told him he is on the verge of letting him go if he is late one more time. My husband is a veteran and a very proud man. Due to his time spent in the military he is always on time and a hard worker. This has been very hard on him knowing if he pays the \$1,900 needed to get the car fixed we risk being evicted and not having enough food for our two children. We only have one car because I am a stay at home mother. I provide childcare at our home for two children besides our own. This helps to pay the bills. My husband is too proud to ask for help so I am asking you. Could you please help us with this car repair so my husband does not lose his job? This would remove so much stress and worry from our life.

Dear Readers,

Car repairs have always been one of the most requested areas of assistance right behind rent/shelter. Car problems can eat away at even the best planned budget, cause job loss and prevent proper medical care. As there are very few resources available in our area for car repairs and transportation assistance we find ourselves most days with 2-3 cars in a shop being repaired. There are many fellow creations waiting for these repairs and on our list for donated cars.

I called the woman that wrote the letter to set up a time to visit. She told me she had finally told her husband she had written to The Time Is Now to Help for assistance after she mailed the letter. I confirmed with the wife when her husband would be home so I could take a look at the car and speak with him. We agreed on a time in the evening to accommodate his work schedule.

I drove to the address provided and arrived at a modest home with a small detached garage. When I got out of my car I noticed the children's toys and a small swing set in the back yard. The husband must have been watching for me as he came out of the house to greet me. After shaking hands and introducing ourselves the man said, "Why don't I show you the car since that is what my wife wrote to you about." I followed him to the garage and waited while he opened the overhead door. The car was an older model car but looked to be in good shape. When I asked the man how many miles were on the car he told me 105,000 miles. The husband pulled out of his pocket the quote for the repairs and we went over it and the car thoroughly. I had to make the decision if the car was worth the expensive repair or if we should wait for a donated vehicle to arrive. As the husband's job and future income was on the line I decided the best course of action would be to have the car repairs completed as soon as possible. I made a call to one of our trusted car repair shops and made arrangements for the vehicle to be towed in the same day and reviewed so I could compare their list with the one the man had given me.

After going over the car the husband invited me inside to meet his wife and children. I followed him inside and was greeted with enthusiasm by his family. After a quick tour of the small home I could see the home was centered on the children. There was a child sized craft table in the corner of the kitchen with projects in various stages of completion. The children proudly showed me their works of art. There was another area set up in the living room with books, a play kitchen and other various toys. The mother told me about her home child care arrangement that allowed her to be home with her children. The mother said, "When I looked into the costs of day care for my two children it was hardly worth my time to leave them every day in the care of strangers. I could hardly earn enough just to pay for that. I decided to help out a few friends by watching their children for less than they could afford for day care and it has worked out well for all of us. My children love the company, I love being home with them and we all have fun together."

Once the tour was complete the mother sent the children to play in their living room while we sat to talk in the kitchen. The husband talked about his time in the service with pride. He had completed two tours of duty overseas and considered himself lucky to have been able to come home without any lifelong injuries. He told me about his war buddies that did not make it out unscathed and some did not make it out at all. He said, "When I see people disrespecting our flag or complaining about our country all I can think about are my comrades that gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. It disgusts me and breaks my heart all at the same time." I couldn't agree with him more. The husband told me about how hard it was to return to civilian life after what he had seen in the military. He reached for his wife's hand and said, "I couldn't have done it without this wonderful woman here. She always seems to know what to do when times get tough. She gave me the encouragement to get the job I have. It is a good job and I don't want to lose it. She wrote the letter to you that I would never have done on my own." I watched as they looked at each other with love and respect.

I asked the husband and wife about their financial situation. When I asked if they had any other areas they needed assistance in the husband shook his head saying, "No. No. You are doing enough for us already. If there is anything else we need we will figure out a way to get by. We cannot accept anymore from The Time Is Now to Help." Now I saw the pride the wife had told me about. I also knew if we did not get them all the way back on their feet they would be running behind for months to come. After some encouragement from me the wife finally looked at her husband and said, "WC is right. We need to tell him our whole situation or we will be back in the same situation due to the amount of work you have missed." She walked over to a desk in the corner and picked up a few pieces of paper. When she brought them to the table she placed them in front of me and told me to look through them. They were bills from a recent emergency room visit for one of the children that was not fully covered on their insurance. There also were several utility bills that were due in a few days and their upcoming rent. The wife showed me several car repair bills that they had done already that had put them behind in all these bills. They thought the few minor repairs would keep the car going but obviously they had not.

When I looked over their income and expenses I noted they could get by if they had a car that was reliable and did not require constant mechanical upkeep. I knew our repairs could give them that car for now. "We" also provided help with one month's rent and utility bill

payments. Gas gift cards were given to the husband for his commute to work. With every area of assistance given the husband shook his head trying to proudly decline our assistance. I insisted telling him, "Our supporters would insist we help you. They are all proud Americans just like you and would be grateful for your service to our country." After I said that I could see tears of gratitude in his eyes that he fought to contain.

There are many working poor in our communities just like this family. They do not want to live off of government handouts. They want to earn an honest wage for an honest day's work. This husband was a perfect example of this. After our assistance this family was not only able to get by, they were able to thrive. I checked on them several months later and I am happy to report their car continues to be a reliable vehicle and due to that the husband is able to support his family. We cannot thank "You" enough for allowing us to provide this assistance.

Please let us continue to help our fellow creations. Every dollar you donate will be matched by the Fox Charities Miracles \$25,000 Matching Grant. Together we will continue to remove the pain and suffering of our fellow Americans.

The Time is Now to Help has been chosen by the Lake Geneva Restaurant Week selection committee to participate in the 2016 Charity Check program - where the most voted non-profit will be the recipient of \$5,000 sponsored by Lake Geneva Country Meats. The 2016 Lake Geneva Restaurant Week event will take place June 3rd – June 12th, 2016. To learn more about this event please visit www.LakeGenevaRestaurantWeek.com. Please plan on visiting the participating restaurants and please vote for The Time Is Now to Help to be the charity that receives the \$5,000 Charity Check.

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

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: Fox Charities, Paul Ziegler, Family Foundation, Clarence & Marilyn Schawk Family Foundation, Martin Business, The Petco Foundation, Petco – Lake Geneva, Sid & Patty Johnson, Thomas Getzen, Marvin & Audrey Hersko, John & Virginia Sullivan, Carolyn May Essel, George & Laretta Clettenberg, Judy Dishneau, Patricia Jankowski, William Antti, Jack Mallory, John & Marian McClellan, Mary Fitzgerald, George Kass, Shirley Fox, Yvonne Mol, Peter & Joyce Tenpenny, Ralph & Elaine Voss, Joanne Batzler, John & Kathleen Pecci, Dr. Mark & Cynthia Brower, Grant & Annamarie McMillin, Robert & Patricia Davis, Jeanne Allen, Elkhorn Chemical & Packaging, Phyllis Heinrich, Bonnie Cowans, our anonymous donors and 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: Edward Horne in loving memory of Lisa Marie Haydam. Frank & Mary Jean Gauger in memory of Jeff Clausen.

Prayer Chain: Please pray for healing for the following people: Caroline, Susan, Clarence, Ryan, Jayden, Santana, Alex, Lily, Kaitlyn, Kynesha, Brandi's Grandma, Corinne and Marilyn.

Inspiration Ministries Resale Shop: Please donate your gently used household items and furniture to the Inspiration Ministries Resale Shop. For local pick up of major items or collection appointments please call (262) 275-2264. Inspiration Ministries Resale Shop is located at N2270 State Rd. 67, Walworth, WI 53184. New hours beginning June 1, 2016: Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays. Please visit often knowing your support will provide life changing assistance for the fellow creations in their care. For more information visit www.inspirationministries.org.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org