

Dear W.C.,

My brother is disabled and lives on his own. I did not realize how bad things were for him until I recently visited. I live about a six hour drive away and can only check on him every few months. I call him almost daily and he never shared with me how he lost his job last month or that he was behind in his bills. He has some mental and physical handicaps but when my parents were alive they made sure he was able to live independently. He has not had any difficulties for the past twenty years. He was able to work and pay his bills with a little supervision from our mom. Our mother died four months ago and he has declined ever since. My job and my finances do not allow me to drive and check on him like I know I should. I saw *The Time Is Now to Help* online and was hopeful you could help me help my brother.

Dear Readers,

We receive many requests from people that are desperately searching for help that is not available in their area. While this request had an Indiana return address, we still read through this letter to see if there was a way we could help. We were relieved to see the request was for a man living in our local area. We called the brother who had written the letter requesting assistance for his younger handicapped brother.

The man answered the phone and was very thankful for my call. I asked for some background information on his handicapped brother. The man said his brother had been born later in life to his parents. He was already fifteen when his handicapped brother was born. The man said, "It is just me and my little brother. We have no other siblings. When he was born his handicaps were obvious from the start. My mother always said she had to teach him how to live on his own because she knew she could not live forever. She really worked hard and her hard work paid off. He knows how to get to work, pay his bills and cook. What he does not have is reasoning skills when people lie or try to cheat him. Some people took advantage of his good heart. He believes everyone he meets is a friend and he believes everything people tell him. These horrible people convinced him to not go to work and to help them instead. He really believed they needed his help. He used all the money in his account to buy these people food, gas up their car and even withdrew cash to give to them. They told him not to tell anyone or they would not be his friends. When he went back to work they fired him because he did not show up for a week. I can honestly tell you my brother has never done something like this before. Distinguishing when people are being dishonest is one of the life skills my mother could not teach him. He just does not understand that these people were using him. He trusts everyone."

Having helped many of our fellow creations that live with a mental handicap, I know how sometimes the reasoning skills needed to tell honest people from the dishonest can be impaired. If this man's brother was feeling alone and grief stricken he could easily have been made to believe these people only wanted him to be their friend and needed his help. Instead these awful people used one of our most vulnerable fellow creations with no regard for his livelihood or well-being. These kinds of people prey upon those that are alone and do not have the mental capacity to see through their schemes.

I asked the brother how he could prevent this from happening in the future if we provided the help the handicap brother needed to pay his rent, utilities and buy food. What would keep this from occurring again if he was going to be living all alone? The brother answered, "My goal is to have him live with me. I have tried to get him to move several times but he always used the excuse that he had his job and didn't want to leave our mother. Now that he no longer has a job and our mother has passed away it is time for him to move. I know it will be hard for him as he does not like change. He has six months left on his lease but I had hoped to speak to his landlord to see if they would let him out of his lease early. I can't even ask this unless he gets his rent paid up to date."

I asked what other areas the handicapped brother may need our assistance. The man told me how he had bought food for his brother when he visited. "I was very worried when I looked through his refrigerator and cabinets and did not see any food. I asked him why he did not buy any food but he would not tell me. I looked in his checking account to see if he had been paying his bills and was shocked to see the withdrawals he had made. I asked him again where the money went but he wouldn't even look me in the eyes. Then he began to cry. I don't think I've seen him cry since our mother died. He knew he had done something wrong but he could not understand it. He finally told me his new friends had told him to do something he thinks was bad. When he told me what these people had done I was so angry. I tried to go to the police but we have nothing for evidence. My brother withdrew the money and he doesn't even know their real names."

After a very long phone conversation the brother told me he could drive down again in a few days to meet me at the brother's apartment. Since I knew the handicapped brother had food I agreed to wait to meet him. He would probably not understand who I was and why I was there, especially after his brother's recent stern conversation about not talking to strangers or sharing any financial information with any strangers.

Two days later I met the brother from Indiana in the apartment parking lot. He told me he had arrived that morning and found several late bills in his brother's mailbox. He also found his brother very depressed and lonely. The man said, "My brother really needs to move to Indiana with me as soon as possible. He is having such a hard time since our Mom died and I see how much he needs me. He has no friends or companions here. He would do so much better if he was living with me." I asked the man if he had told his brother about his plan. The man said, "No. I did not want to get his hopes up if it wasn't even possible yet." I told the man "We" would be willing to help his brother get the care and companionship he deserved. He questioned, "You would do this for him? You haven't even met him yet." I answered, "Yes. I can see how much you love your brother and want to help. We together can make this happen." I watched as the brother wiped tears away quickly and said, "Well, then I think it is time you met my brother."

We went into the small apartment building to a ground floor apartment. The older brother walked in with me following behind. The handicapped brother looked up from the television program he was watching and asked, "Who is this man? Why is he here with you?" The older brother introduced me and tried to explain how I was there to help. I watched as he patiently explained to his brother how we helped people that had special needs and how the

younger brother absorbed this information. He asked me a few questions and I could see he had some difficulties but was capable of understanding what we told him. He could understand how to live on his own if the world was an honest and safe place but could not perceive anything dishonest or deceiving.

The man showed me his handicapped brother's checking account statements and overdue bills. I looked through them and saw the withdrawals that had emptied his account. This left him without the funds to pay the electric bill and rent, along with not enough funds for food or the taxi service he used for his transportation. I asked the handicapped brother where he would like to live if he could live anywhere on earth. He thought for a few minutes and then answered, "With my brother. I visited there once and like it there. He has a dog and nice friends that came to visit me." The older brother questioned, "What if I told you I want you to live with me too. Would you want to come?" At first I saw the panic on the handicapped brother's face. Oftentimes a change in schedule or surroundings can be overwhelming for those with certain disabilities. Then I saw him smile and ask, "Will you be there?" The older brother answered, "Of course. Every day. You will live in my house with me and my dog. You could even come to work with me sometimes. Would you like that?" The handicapped brother's face finally lit up with a smile. He answered the brother, "I could get a job again and help you. I wouldn't be alone anymore. I would like that very much."

The brothers and I walked around the apartment going through the handicapped man's few belongings. He had a few pieces of furniture from his mother that they wanted to keep but the remaining pieces would be donated. They could easily fit in the brother's pickup truck. I made the call to the landlord he knew of The Time Is Now to Helps work. After I explained the situation the landlord was willing to let the handicap brother out of his lease early if I paid the one month's rent that was overdue. If the handicapped man moved out within a week he would forgive the next month's rent that would be owed in a few days. He let the handicapped man out of his lease six months early. When I shared this with the two brothers they knew this move must happen as quickly as possible. With the help of some of our volunteers and one of his elderly neighbors we were able to get the apartment packed in that time. The following weekend the older brother came to pick up his brother and his small pile of belongings. The handicapped brother was given our help with the overdue rent, some food and our caring and sharing volunteers. The brothers were both very grateful for our help. They were hugging each other and even hugged me goodbye with tears in their eyes. "You" made these brothers a family again. "You" helped us remove one of our vulnerable, lonely fellow creations and made sure he got the care he needed to live life safe and happy. God bless you for your support.

Please donate to our Barnabas \$50,000 Matching Grant. Your funds are desperately needed to provide the poverty stricken senior citizens, the handicapped, working poor families, children and veterans in our communities with shelter assistance, utility assistance, transportation assistance, food, toiletries and the many other daily necessities. Every dollar of your donation will be matched by the Barnabas \$50,000 Matching Grant doubling your donation and the poverty relief you provide. Thank you, thank you for your support in helping our fellow Americans in desperate need. God Bless "You" for your compassion and Caring and Sharing for God's creations.

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: Kunes Country Auto Group, Gregg Kunes, The Harold & Bernice DeWeerd Family Foundation, Martin Business, The Dan & Donna Casey Family Charitable Fund, James & Lynne Newman Foundation, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Peck & Weis Heating & Cooling, Mary Fitzgerald, Anthony & Sandra Perri, John & Kathy Poiron, Michael & Marijo Pope, Shari & James Loback, Jonathan & Sara Kaplan, Joan Marabito Rietz, George Pryjma, George & Lauretta Clettenberg, Edward & Ronlyn Bauer, Robert & Mary Winter, 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.

Honoraries: John & Marlys Schuerman in honor of Ray & Evelyn Lucivansky's Wedding Anniversary. Beverly, Ronald & Carolyn Bloch in honor of their cousins Astrid & Albert Enskat's wedding anniversary.

Memorials: Diane Hanson in memory of Tom Spiegelhoff. Al & Geri Hinton in memory of Joseph Weise.

Prayer Chain: Please pray for healing for the following people: Mike, Caroline, Susan, Jennifer, Clarence, Ryan, Jayden, Santina, Alex, Lily, Kaitlyn, Kynasha, Brandi's Grandma, Marilyn, Sal, Corinne.

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: Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays. Please visit often knowing your support will provide life changing assistance for the fellow creations in their care. Inspiration Ministries is home for up to 80 residents that live with multiple physical and mental challenges. I thank all of you for helping. For more information visit

www.inspirationministries.org.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org