

Another year of our good works has gone by and we are so grateful for all we have accomplished together. Your generosity has brought our charity work to so many struggling in poverty throughout our communities. We and our volunteers have brought smiles to the faces that previously held only sadness and tears. Our assistance has changed the lives of hundreds of senior citizens, children, the handicapped, veterans, working poor families and single mothers this past year. We will try our best to recap such an exceptional year of assistance.

We began 2016 with the Fox Charities \$25,000 Christmas Miracles Matching Grant, yes the same matching grant donors that have so generously provided the Fox Charities \$25,000 Christmas Wish Matching Grant we are matching right now. We used these matching grant funds to help a widow and her two sons. We brought our assistance to this family after they suffered a painful loss and now faced foreclosure and financial distress. We together started the year by saving this family from further distress when we found a rental that would allow their beloved dog Sammy. This dog was so special to them as it had been her husband's beloved companion that stayed by his side throughout the illness that finally took his life. Thanks to all of "You" we kept this family from enduring anymore sadness and loss in their lives. This family continues to maintain their financial independence as the mother still works two jobs. The car we provided is still giving this family the safe and reliable transportation they needed. And yes, Sammy is still there with his daily reminders of unconditional love. This family was one of the many, many families helped this year thanks to "You" and our generous matching grant donors.

We began February with a new matching grant opportunity provided by the Family Foundation \$30,000 Matching Grant. A granddaughter lovingly caring for her grandmother was saved from eviction and hunger. The granddaughter thought she was hiding her financial distress from her grandmother to spare her the stress she was going through. This granddaughter found out it is nearly impossible to hide this kind of worry, the very obvious pains of poverty. When I was preparing to leave their rental, after a quiet conversation we thought was out of her grandmothers hearing, we both were surprised to hear her grandmother calling out to me. Both the granddaughter and I went to the living room to see what she needed. The grandmother reached out for my hand so I sat down beside her. I got tears in my eyes as she struggled to say, "I remember who you are now. I used to read your story in the newspaper each week. I know why you are here. My granddaughter thinks I don't see her cry sometimes and worry. Now I know it is not just her worrying about me. If you are here to help her, thank you and God Bless you." I continued to hold her hand as I said, "We have it all resolved now. There is nothing for you or your granddaughter to worry about. God Bless you too." This grandmother and granddaughter are just one of the hundreds of families helped by "You" and your generosity this past year.

I help many people that have endured much at the hands of either neglectful parents or abusive spouses. Their stories always pain me to hear and are even harder to write and share with all of you. The visit to a woman raising her young niece after her sister died of a drug overdose was one of the visits that stayed with me for months after my visit. This young woman had been through tortuous abuse at the hands of her mother and her mother's various boyfriends, yet she did everything she could to escape that lifestyle with her young niece.

The physical scars were an obvious reminder of the terrible childhood she had lived. Our assistance also reminded her that there are good people in the world, all of “Us” together, that care and share for those living with the pains and suffering of poverty. After telling this woman we would be providing a donated vehicle, several months’ rent and much needed food, at least we were able to erase some of the pains caused by poverty. As I explained our plan of assistance to the young woman I watched her eyes fill with tears. She began to weep, saying, “I never knew there were good people in this world outside of my church and my neighbors. Everywhere I go people stare at my scars, and every time I look in the mirror I am reminded of the worst in people. You have proved to me there are more good people.”

In April we were blessed with the Ziegler \$15,000 Matching Grant. Again we were able to help so many thanks to Mr. Ziegler’s motivation and generosity. One of our columns reflected your generosity when it shared a visit I had made to two sisters living in desperate poverty. One of the sisters was both physically and mentally handicapped and being cared for by her sister. When she found out she was getting a new refrigerator, after living for some time without any refrigeration and desperately food insecure, she was overwhelmed with gratitude. When I told her we were also going to do some much needed home repairs, food, utility assistance, mattresses and car repairs the woman covered her face with her hands and I could hear her sobbing. I said, “Don’t cry. The Time Is Now to Help has many supporters that want to help you. The people in your community do not want you living like this without heat and food. They want to help.” The woman tried to deny any further assistance but once I made her realize how this would help not just her but her sister as well she finally gave in. Once she had good food and a refrigerator I even discovered what an excellent cook she was. Our caring and sharing hearts removed the pains of poverty for these two sisters caught up in the grasp of poverty.

In May we brought our assistance to a proud veteran that tried to hide his tears of gratitude and relief. In July we shared the difficulties in finding employment when you are not quite retirement age and still need the income from a job. In August I watched as a senior woman painfully tried to eat the food I had brought to her. Her teeth were in need of dental care that she could not afford. The senior woman tried to hide her wincing behind her hand as she ate. I told the senior woman how we would be helping her with more than just her painful teeth. She humbly replied, “Bringing me these two bags of food and toiletries has helped me so much today. It is so scary to not know where your next meal will come from or to stand in line at a food pantry at my age. It is also embarrassing to run out of something as simple as toilet paper or toothpaste and not have the money to purchase them. It is frightening to have to choose between removing the terrible pain in my mouth and paying my rent. Your donors probably do not know these things so please tell them how much this means to this poor old woman.” She got tears in her eyes as I reached out for her hand and said, “You are not old. You are just struggling like so many other people in our communities. We will help you get healthy and get back on your feet.” And I am proud to say we helped all these people thanks to all of “You” and your generosity.

In September we were touched by the generosity of the Barnabas \$50,000 Matching Grant. These funds, matched by all of “You” brought a much needed boost during a slow time for our donations. We were struggling to bring our assistance to as many of our fellow creations

as possible and as funds would allow. This matching grant was enthusiastically met and just as enthusiastically distributed to those most in need. In September I also shared another painful visit where I felt the sharp pain of loss and grief. When you add these to the pains of poverty it is felt even sharper. A long illness can wipe out a family's finances and leave the surviving family to struggle with not only the loss of a spouse but also the loss of income and devastating bills. The woman in this column was also pregnant with a much longed for child that was destined to never meet their father. This woman and her older son needed car repairs, utility assistance and direction on how to get her life in order. With our assistance she was able to do just that. We even provided a crib for the new baby. At my last visit the woman tearfully thanked us for all "We" had done to help them. She looked wistfully at the crib and said, "I can't believe this new little one will be here any day. All these years of longing for another baby and God chooses to give us one now. Maybe he knew this would be what I would need to help me continue to live after my husband died. This baby and my son will force me to smile and to even enjoy living again." Both she and her son gave me a hug and again thanked us for all we had done to save them from what would have most certainly been a quick downward spiral further into poverty. Your support prevented that from happening now and in their future.

In October we were blessed to hear Richard Driehaus would again be offering his generous Richard H. Driehaus \$30,000 Matching Grant. We will soon be sharing with you where every penny of that grant was spent to provide poverty relief.

In November we began the Fox Charities \$25,000 Christmas Wish Matching Grant. We are happy to announce we have successfully matched this grant as well. These matching grant funds have been used over the past few weeks to indeed grant many Christmas Wishes to those most in need. And this grant brings us full circle from a Christmas Miracle to a Christmas Wish in 2016. We hope you all had a very blessed Christmas and we wish you a healthy and Happy New Year. We greet the New Year with enthusiasm knowing you are there beside us every step of the way. You give us the strength to not only see and hear the pain that fills many of our fellow creations lives; you also give us the strength to do something to remove that pain.

In addition to the people helped in the columns "You" our faithful readers have read, together we have helped over 500 people this past year. We have stepped up in our mission together and have removed an extreme amount of pain and suffering. We have eliminated the fear and shame of poverty. We have replaced hunger, being felt by everyone from children to senior citizens, with good nourishing foods. We have removed the deprivation of lack of shelter and provided safe, warm shelter. We have provided heat, lights and warm water. We have supplied much needed toiletries for those living without toilet paper and other necessities. We have replaced worn, ill-fitting clothing with proper clothing. For those struggling to get to jobs and medical care we have provided car repairs and vehicles. Together we have wiped away the tears of many by providing these things with the compassion, love, Caring and Sharing our Lord wants us to achieve. I look forward to working with all of "You" in this upcoming year to continue our good works. Thank you once again for the blessings we share with each other and our fellow creations in need.

There are many of our fellow creations turning to us for help or being referred by others. The children, the handicapped, the elderly, those that cannot fend for themselves, those living in desperate need will be crying happy tears of relief thanks to all of “You” and The Time Is Now to Help working together to provide poverty relief. Together “We” make a difference removing the pains of poverty for our fellow creations. Thank you and God Bless you.

Health & Happiness, Love & 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: Barnabas Matching Grant, Fox Charities, Larry & Sally Rayner, Kunes Country Auto Group, Gregg Kunes, Bess Spiva Timmons Foundation, Martin Business, J. Kruzan Construction & Remodeling, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Elkcast Aluminum, Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, Grunow Family Fund, Wayne & Beverly Hilbelink, Thomas Morrissy, John & Valerie Lincoln, Paul Ziegler, Kramer F&I Solutions, Kevin Kramer, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schuberth, Allen Hermansen, Oldies But Goodies Red Hat Society, Dan & Regina Mehring, Veronica Kirkpatrick, Kathleen McGuire, Patricia Jankowski, Mark & Suzette Bittmann, Gerard & Patricia Miller, Mary Fitzgerald, Church of Jesus Christ LDS, Beverly Modory, Charlotte West, Lorna Klein, Michol Ann Ford, Judith Caputo, Fred Zeller & Bette Popik, Shirley Abell, Al & Ellen Burnell, Robert & Sharon Foscatto, George & Leah Rozhon, Elkhorn Chemical & Packaging, John & Kathy Poiron, Laura Ranieri Bell, Richard & Mary Ruch, William Antti, Carol Hanke, Michael & Kathe Beach, James Borden, William & Pauline Mangold, Shawn & Donna McLafferty, Gerald & Marilyn Wilkin, Richard Green, Michael Neubeck, Rhonda Lee Desautels, Marjorie Rappold, Rick Davis, Mike & Kim Olsen, William Norton, Robert Keller, Gregory Swanson, 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: Mark & Natalie Reno in thanks for prayers answered.

Memorials: John Race in memory of Kathryn Bucher. Dorothy Furman in memory of Erik Enzenbacher. Paul Ziegler in memory of his dear friend Dorith Brown.

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

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 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Sundays. 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