

Dear W.C.,

My daughter-in-law has suffered several strokes due to a rare brain disease. She used to be a hard working vibrant mother and is now completely disabled. She has severe headaches and suffers from seizures. It is so hard to see what she goes through every day. The doctors say she will improve with time but she will never be the person she was before. My son is trying to keep up with all their bills but due to having to take so much time off caring for her and their two children, and the loss of her job, they have fallen behind. I go to their house every day after work and help with the children and my daughter-in-law until my son gets home. I bring food over and help with the laundry. They have applied for assistance but were declined the first time. I don't know how they could determine my daughter-in-law is not disabled. She cannot speak, walk or drive. They have applied again and are waiting to see if they qualify this time. It will not be the same as the income from her job but it will certainly help. This has been incredibly hard for our once healthy family. We always commented on how lucky and blessed we were to have our health when we saw so many others around us struggling. Now our family too has been touched by not only a tragic medical condition but also poverty. I beg you to please consider helping my son and his family. You are their only hope to get them back on their feet.

Dear Readers,

We hear this so often, "You are our only hope." We truly wish we were not our fellow creations "only hope". The responsibility that we carry on our shoulders as being thought of as the only group, organization, human beings that can bring about the change needed to help our fellow Americans survive is not taken lightly. What helps us to carry that weight is all of "You". We feel your helping hands lift us up and make us strong. "You" are who gives us the strength to face sometimes tragic and difficult situations that are the cause of hunger, eviction, loss of transportation and utility disconnection for the poverty stricken in our communities.

I called the mother-in-law that had written this letter requesting assistance for her son's family. We agreed upon a time to visit when she would be present. I arrived at the time scheduled and was greeted by the mother-in-law at the door of a townhome. I noted the few stairs and two story structure that I knew probably meant even more hardship for this family. After introducing ourselves the mother invited me inside to meet her daughter-in-law and grandchildren. I met two young girls that were working on their homework at the kitchen table. They were talking to their mother who sat in a wheelchair next to them. She did not respond but I could tell she was listening to her daughters. I saw the questioning look on her face so I explained who I was the best I could in front of the two young girls. She gave a slight nod and the mother-in-law told me that meant she understood. The mother-in-law said, "I told her about you yesterday after I spoke with you on the phone. I did not want to get her hopes up if you did not answer my letter." The mother-in-law led me to the living room where we could speak more freely.

I noted the hospital bed taking up a large area of the room. The mother-in-law stated that due to the stairs her daughter was not able to get up to their bedroom any longer. I made a note

that this family would need to find a more accessible rental. Once we were seated the mother-in-law said, "She does not know how bad they are financially. I don't want her to worry as stress is not good for what she's going through. She gets horrific headaches and they are trying to keep her seizures under control but she has to adjust to the medication." I watched as tears began to fall, "She is not just my daughter-in-law; she is like my own flesh and blood daughter. I was only able to have one child, my son. He did well when he chose her as his bride. She is a kind and wonderful mother. She has no contact with her family. From what she has told me it is for the best. I just can't believe this has happened to her." The tears continued to flow as she quickly wiped them away, looking at the doorway as if to be sure no one saw her crying.

I asked the mother-in-law about the rare brain disease and learned how tragic it was, it would progress and there was not any cure. The daughter-in-law could live with it for a very long time yet and there were ways to help keep the symptoms under control with the expensive prescription medications they were trying. The mother-in-law told me about the therapy she was beginning soon that they hoped would help her regain her speech and some ability to walk. She also told me about the help they were receiving from her friends at church, including occasional meals prepared and help with the children when needed. The mother-in-law said, "I don't know what we would do without the good people in our lives but they really need help financially as well. I can't ask these people I know are struggling themselves to do anymore than they already are. If my son does not get caught up on his utilities and rent they will be evicted." I told her, "Not if we can prevent it. I have my concerns about this townhome they are renting though." The mother-in-law showed me the lease and I noted it expired in three months. I was relieved to see it was close to expiring and wrote down the landlords name and phone number. I wanted to call later about hopefully getting them out of the lease early without any penalties, once we were able to find a suitable rental.

The mother-in-law showed me all the financial information I requested. I noted the late utilities and rent. I saw the payments for medical care that was not covered by their health insurance plan. I saw the funds used for gas to get the father to work and the wife to medical care. I saw how frugal they had been with food and other daily necessities. In fact if they had not been receiving food from their caring and sharing church friends they would not have been eating that well at all. I saw the letter declining their request for assistance. It stated they would have to wait three months to be evaluated again. Since two months had already past they were hopeful they would begin to receive benefits in one month time. The problem was this disability would be too little too late. It would not help them to catch up on their overdue rent and utilities. It would not help them to purchase food and toiletries in the coming month. That is where all of "You" stepped in. Thanks to all of "You" we were able to bring their rent up to date and pay one month ahead to allow them time to not only receive their disability benefits but to also find a rental that would accommodate the mothers new special needs.

The mother-in-law shed tears of gratitude as I went over the financial assistance they would receive. I handed her some gift cards for food and other daily necessities. She shook her head in disbelief as she said, "You truly are our only hope. No one would have been able to do this for them other than The Time Is Now to Help. Everywhere we turned there was a long wait

or they did not qualify. How do they expect people to get by when you have a drastic cut in your income and a medical condition that prevents you from caring for yourself? You are the only one we have turned to that has understood their dilemma.” I told her it wasn’t just me that understood their dilemma, it was all of “Us” working together to remove their pains of poverty. The mother-in-law stated, “I never knew there were so many good people outside of my church friends. I thought we were lost and alone in this struggle but now I hear there are many people that want to help us. That brings even more hope to my heart. God Bless all of you.”

It took two months to find the rental they needed. Once it was found I called the landlord and he let them out of their lease one month early. The new landlord offered a slight rent reduction for the single level home they would be renting. This home was already wheelchair accessible and had an extra bedroom for the mother’s hospital bed and other equipment. The mother-in-law was able to move in also to provide help when she was not at work. This new arrangement helped them all to survive not only financially but also with the daughter-in-laws progressing brain disease. The mother-in-law was happy to report her daughter-in-law was improving from the stroke and not having nearly as many seizures or headaches. The medications were working to give her an improved quality of life for now. With two young children, a husband and mother-in-law that love her, that is all this woman can hope for. Now that we have removed this family’s pain of poverty their future is definitely brighter thanks to all of “You”.

We have nearly matched the Family Foundation 2017 \$30,000 Matching Grant. Please continue to donate now knowing every dollar will be matched, doubling your donation. We have many people coming to us in desperate need, living in fear trying to survive without the necessities of life. Many volunteers and I work very hard verifying the genuine need of good people. Together “We” need to continue to do our good works that make our mission for God a success. Together “We” make a big 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: The Gallo Family Fund, Family Foundation, Fox Charities, Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust, Martin Business, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schuberth, Unilock, Rhoades Foundation, Freedom Plastics Foundation, Petco Foundation, Lake Geneva Petco, Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, Grunow Family Fund, Brian Pollard, Mark & Sandra Schmitt, St. Joseph's Congregation Souper Bowl of Caring, St. Charles Congregation, Sharon United Methodist Women, Gale Baccetti, Peter & Deborah Wendt, PFI Screenprint Division, LLC, Carolyn May Essel, Stephen & Janet Rostkowski, Marilyn Carver, Christ Evangelical Lutheran, Aboutime Major Appliance Repair, Steven

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Memorials: Ed & Sharon Christensen in memory of Joseph Maduzia.

Prayer Chain: A big “thank you” for all of your prayers and good thoughts. We have received phone calls and letters from those that have gotten well. Some of our loved ones have had their cancer go into remission, some have had their enormous anguish of pain physically healed. The power of prayer and positive thoughts comes from the true healer, our Lord answering our prayers. Please pray for healing for the following people: Mike, Caroline, Susan, Jennifer, Clarence, Jayden, Santina, Alex, Lily, Kaitlyn, Kynesha, Brandi’s Grandma, Marilyn & Lois.

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. 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