

Dear W.C.,

8/10/09

I am trying to get through some of the worst weeks of my life. My husband had a routine surgery several weeks ago. He developed an aggressive infection that has nearly taken his life. He has had to have further surgery to remove the infection and this has become much more complicated than we ever thought possible. He has a long recovery and rehabilitation ahead of him. He is lucky to be alive. I have had to drive our old car back and forth to the city every day to be with him. We have two young children that I need to be home for at night. During the day my mother has been watching them so they don't see their Dad in the hospital so sick.

We were having financial problems before this surgery but my husband could not put off the surgery any longer. He is self employed .We are behind in our utilities and I really need help with the gas costs from the daily drive into the city. My parents are in no condition to help any further than child care. They go month to month barely making ends meet. I work part time but have had to give that up for now to care for my husband. My husband had no trouble supporting his family running his own business until this recession hit. Now that he physically can't do the work he was doing, and we don't know if he ever will be able to again, we are really worried. I tell him to not stress himself and worry because it won't help him to heal and gain his strength back. I try to not worry in front of him but I am more scared than I have ever been.

Scared Devoted Wife

Dear Readers,

This letter is yet another reason why we need good health care reform in our country. Many families become homeless due to an illness and not having health insurance. It is a major problem in our country that needs to be resolved. I receive many letters each week from families struggling due to an illness and health care expenses. There are no easy answers but it is a major cause of poverty that needs to be addressed.

This devoted wife was tirelessly caring for her husband and her family while he was recovering from a life threatening infection. She had to keep her husband positive, giving him loving care to keep him fighting back and wanting to live.It will be a long road of rehab and rest. This will put all his business plans on hold for much longer than they had planned on. His job involves physical labor and he will be unable to do that work for quite a while. Until he is home and recovering his wife will be unable to work full time. She has been able to resume her part time job just to keep food on the table. They have fallen behind on their rent and utilities. She has applied for assistance but found there are long waiting lists every where she turns. The Time Is Now to Help was able to assist her with gas vouchers for her

daily drives to the hospital, utility assistance, and rent. We also reminded her about the W.C. Food Pantry. She had heard about it but had not been there yet. She promised to go there. Their cabinets and refrigerator were almost empty. Her mother had been helping with food but she did not have the income to be helping like that for long. Her mother felt bad not being able to help with more than child care and a frugal hot meal for her daughter and grandchildren. I reassured her that she was doing more to help than she even realized. Her daughter apologized for not expressing more to her how important her help was. She then turned to me with tears in her eyes and said, "I can't begin to tell you how much The Time Is Now's assistance will mean to our family. I can again concentrate on getting my husband well and stop constantly worrying about the rent and utilities. When we are on our feet again I will be happy and proud to volunteer my time at the W.C. Food Pantry. Thank you so much to everyone that makes The Time Is Now to Help possible."

When we last spoke her husband had completed his second surgery. He was home and going for regular rehabilitation. He was already looking forward to going back to work. He said his wife's devotion and love got him through it all. Prior to the illness they were just making it each month. The recession had taken its toll on them. To save money the family, including the grandparents, stretched their meals to last several days. The father struggled to work every day with an old injury that required a surgical repair. When he became ill after the surgery they fell farther and farther into poverty. The father wanted to give up but the wife came to the hospital armed with a photo of their two children. Her love and persistence restored in him the fight for his life. The infection caught in the hospital was extremely serious. The doctors and nurses several times tried to prepare her for the worse.

The financial problems at home became so bad she lived with the constant fear of homelessness and utilities being disconnected. The financial shame caused by our inadequate health care system almost broke this loving family. The wife finally told her husband everything she was worrying about while he was in the hospital. She told him how The Time Is Now to Help stepped in and offered a helping hand when she needed it most. He was proud of her for her strength during his long illness and her love that saw him through. The wife was happy to report she had finally gotten a full time job. This will help them to pay the bills until her husband returns to work.

We are over half way to our goal of \$30,000 in the Richard Driehaus Matching Grant. Please take advantage of Richard Driehaus' Matching Grant. There are many American's desperately in need of our help to ease their pain and suffering of poverty. Every dollar you donate will be matched by Richard, doubling your donation. At this time we have many desperate requests for assistance. Please, Please Help.

Thank you for Caring and Sharing.

*Health & Happiness, God Bless Everyone, W.C.*

**Please Help:** Make checks payable to: The Time Is Now to Help, P.O. Box 70, Pell Lake, WI 53157. 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 exactly what every penny of your donation provided for the poverty stricken.

**A Very Special Thank You:** Dorothy Heffernan, ITW Foundation, Paper Dolls, Flitcroft Septic Systems, CB3 Financial Group, David & Shirley Heigl, June Davidsen, Michael Glass, Judy Dishneau, Darrylin Blackburn, Gerald & Marilyn Wilkin, Tom & Joyce Roche, Johanna Sterken, Dan & Regina Mehring, Patti Wagon Ice Cream, Marilyn Hauser, Martin O'Brien, Drescher Family Charitable Foundation, W.C. Family Resource Center/Food Pantry volunteers, Michael & Sue Borden, Dick & Jean Honeyager, 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.

**We Desperately Need Cars**

**Goodsearch for The Time Is Now:** Search the web with [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and help to raise funds for The Time Is Now to Help. Just make [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) your homepage, pick The Time Is Now as your charity and the rest is simple.

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Please visit: [www.timeisnowtohelp.org](http://www.timeisnowtohelp.org)