

A Christmas Grant

Dear W.C.,

12/21/09

I am so ashamed to have to write this letter, but I have to keep my job to provide for my children. I was wondering if you would be able to help me get my car repaired. I am a single mother with three children and I rely on my car to get me to and from work. The police told me the car has to be fixed or I can no longer drive it after 10 days. Can you please help me with this? I do not have a phone anymore because I could not afford to pay the bill. Just stop by my apartment in the afternoon when I am home from work anytime. Thank you so much.

Struggling Mom of Three

Dear Readers,

The letter I received from this mother was very short but I could tell this woman and children needed help. I followed her direction and drove to the address she had provided. It was a small older apartment building. I knocked on the door and was greeted by a woman with a young child in her arms. She excitedly asked, "Are you W.C.?" When I told her yes she smiled with tears in her eyes. I could see she was desperate for help. She immediately said, "Let me show you my car." She ran to get their coats and her keys. We walked to the parking lot while she told me a little history on herself.

The car we arrived at looked like it had been abandoned there. The driver's door was wired shut, the windshield was cracked, the tires were bald, and the whole car was rusting. I hesitantly asked her if she actually still drove the car and she said, "Yes, everyday to the sitter's house and work." She had to enter the car on the passenger side due to the broken driver's side door. When she started the engine a huge cloud of oily smoke poured into the air and the muffler rattled as it hit the ground. I asked her to let me get in the driver's seat. When I put my foot on the brake pedal it touched the floor before the car slowly stopped. I could not imagine her driving this vehicle safely anywhere much less with children inside. She asked if I thought it was fixable as she began to cry. I told her she should meet me the next day at a friend of mine's car shop. She then asked me inside where it was warm to talk some more.

Her apartment was small and I could tell they had just started eating lunch before I arrived. The preschooler climbed back in her chair to eat her small piece of sandwich. I noticed the mother's plate had hardly any food on it. She looked embarrassed when she saw me looking at her plate. She quickly explained she worked as a waitress in the evenings and would grab something to eat at work. She said she saved what little food she had for her children. I felt her heartbreak and sacrifice. She told me she worked six nights a week as a waitress. Her two older children received free lunch at school. She had to pay for a sitter for the three children

several nights a week. The other nights the grandmother watched them when she could. The grandmother was unable to help them financially as she was struggling herself. The mother told me how her ex-husband had not paid child support for the last year and a half. He had fled the state and no one knew where he was. This had made it difficult for her to keep up with her bills and provide for her children. She said she had no choice but to work hard for her children. She is a loving mother. When I spoke to her boss they said she is a very hard worker.

I looked around the apartment and noticed everything was old and worn. There was a small Christmas tree in the corner but I did not notice any gifts under it. The little girl came out of her shyness and began to talk. She pointed at the tree and told me Santa would be coming soon. This brought more tears to the Mother's eyes as she turned to hide them from her daughter.

I made arrangements to meet the mother the next afternoon at a local car shop. I could hear her car coming before I even saw it. She walked over to where I was standing by several cars. I told her we had decided her car was too expensive to fix. She looked very sad and on the verge of tears, so I quickly pulled out a set of keys and handed them to her. She looked confused for a second and then began to tremble. I said, "Go ahead, and start up this car." I pointed to a nice, clean, used vehicle. She was so excited she dropped the keys. Her hands shook as she opened the door. She climbed in the car and started it up. It ran smooth and quiet. She then looked in the back seat and saw the bags of food and several toys. I handed her some gift cards for gas to get her to and from work. I also gave her a gift card for a department store so she could buy the warm clothing her children would need for winter and Christmas gifts for each of them. She then began to cry. She was overwhelmed by The Time Is Now to Helps compassion. We also brought her utilities up to date and paid a little into the future so she could get on her feet again.

We could not have provided this assistance without your Caring and Sharing. As we all sit down to our Christmas meals with family and friends we need to all take the time to thank God for our many blessings. Remember the many families, children, handicapped, and elderly struggling with the most basic of needs. Thank you for your love, support, and generosity throughout the year. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

As a special Christmas gift to our fellow creations in desperate need, we are happy to announce a \$25,000 Christmas Blessing Matching Grant. Please remember when the holidays are over there will still be many fellow American's living in desperate poverty. Beginning Christmas Day every dollar you donate to ease the pain and suffering of poverty will be matched by the \$25,000 Christmas Blessing Grant. Only through all of your compassionate Caring and Sharing can we, together, accomplish much.

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: Bill & Lois McEssy, McDonald's, MLH, Paul Ziegler HS, Mark & Natalie Reno, The Kara Foundation, Paper Dolls, Dennis & Christine Haak, Martin O'Brien, Daniel Przewoznik, Ron Amann, Stuart & Dee Wild, Sidney Johnson, Carolyn Hopkins, Debra Guzman, Mackenzie Breen, Bev Boughton, Brian & Joan Goedland, Thomas & Donna Labecki, Stanley Blum, Susan Boring, Allie & Tyler Boggs, Konrad & Caterina Frenz, John & Kristi Hugunin, Paul & Julie Frank, Barbara Morrissey, Peter & Gail Nieuwenhuis, Gerald & Thelma Meyer, Martha Flury, Sandralee Thiele, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Behrens, Geoffrey & Melinda Holt in Xmas honor of Ken Kayser, Brian & Lisa Schmidt, June Davidsen, Joseph & Cecilia Kowalski, James & Carolyn Miles, Elizabeth Wallace, Jane Manske, Harold & Kay Hruska, Joanne Zeasman, Steve & Betty Thornton, Carroll & Shirley Rands, Thelma Robbins, W.C. Family Resource Center/Food Pantry volunteers, 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.

Please Volunteer: The W.C. Food Pantry is in need of volunteers. Please call (262)348-0600 and leave your name and phone number. We need your help.

We Desperately Need Cars: Please donate a used car to help our fellow American's get to work and other daily necessities.

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

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org