

Dear W.C.,

12/14/09

We are a family struggling to get by. My husband was injured at work and is on disability. I have a job that does not pay much and requires a daily commute of over an hour each way. My husband and I have two teenage children together. We adopted my sister's two younger children when she passed away from cancer several years ago. We also recently took in two teenage children that are siblings. Their parents were killed in a car accident last year and no family members could take them in. They are friends of our kids and we have known them for years. How could we let them go into the foster care system? We have grown to love all these children as our own. We have helped them through their grief and they are growing up to be wonderful people. So now we are a large family with several more mouths to feed and not enough food to go around. Our landlord is very understanding and offers us a very reasonable rent in exchange for the kids and I doing odd jobs around the building and grounds. My husband is very limited on what he can do because of his injuries. We have looked for an apartment closer to my job but there are not any landlords that will offer us the same reduced rent. Our utilities are several months behind. My car needs some expensive repairs and has a lot of miles on it due to the daily commute. Gas is a major expense for us. We have been eating mostly rice and beans or peanut butter sandwiches. We never go out. Our only outing is to the library on the weekends or evenings so the kids can use the computers for homework. We take out movies and books for free entertainment. We do not have any money to spend on toiletries, household needs, food, etc . We are very desperate for your help.

A Hungry, Loving Family

Dear Readers,

What a caring and sharing heart this family has to bring in more children in need, even when they are struggling themselves. The relatives of these children all turned their backs on the kids when they needed them most. This loving mother and father, living in poverty and disability, took in four children with broken hearts and gave them the love and support they needed. Now this family is in need of our love and support. We met late one evening and the mother cried as she spoke of her struggle to feed, house, and clothe everyone in her household. Her husband sustained a very bad injury at work but only receives a small disability check. He will never be able to go back to the work he was doing in the past. For now, he cares for the kids and the apartment while his wife works and drives long hours.

The mother told me about her job that does not pay much. She looked everywhere for work and this was the only job she could get. I commend her; most people would not try as hard. Their rent is very reasonable and it will be hard to find a place big enough for their large family that they can afford. The mother continues to look for work closer to their apartment

but there are not many places hiring. I did suggest a visit to the W.C. Family Resource Center. She is very concerned about driving her car due to the repairs that are needed. After checking out her older, very high mileage car, it was decided the repairs were too extensive. We gave them a good used car. Prior to giving them the car we had the car inspected and put new tires on it. The family was speechless. The mother and father cried, overwhelmed by our caring.

The apartment was clean but crowded with children's school books, and very worn folded bedding on the couches. The two teenagers they took in were sleeping on the hide a bed couch and the other children all shared small bedrooms. The kitchen was older but everything was in working order. Sadly the cabinets and refrigerator were nearly empty. I remembered the days of hunger pains I felt as a child and my heart went out to these fellow American's struggling to get by. They all introduced themselves, looked me in the eye, and shook my hand. I could see how proud the mother was of all of them and that she had spent some time teaching them manners and communication skills. She said what she could not give the children in material goods she made up for with love and teaching them skills they would need to succeed in whatever they chose to take on. The youngest child asked me to come see their Christmas tree that stood three feet tall in the corner. The child told me how he saved the tree from someone's garbage.

We sat to talk about their financial state at the small kitchen table in the corner. They showed me the overdue utility bills. All of their income went towards their rent, gas and repairs for the car. This left them with no money left for food or toiletries. They were all sharing the last of the tube of toothpaste and they were on their last roll of toilet paper. It was a very sad and desperate situation. We supplied the mother with some gas vouchers to help ease the financial strain of her daily commute. We brought their utilities up to date. We also provided her with gift certificates for food and toiletries they haven't had in a long time. We provided new beds and new bedding, pillows, blankets, and sheets. The children were very, very thankful.

I called the owner where she worked and he commented on the mother's excellent work. After we spoke about our beliefs the owner stated she was long overdue for a review and a raise. He ended up giving the mother a 40% raise. God Bless him for his Caring and Sharing. This made a big difference in the families budget.

I checked in on them a few weeks later. The mother said she felt so much safer driving to work and in the last snow storm she had no problems getting to work and home again safely. I gave the mother some gift cards when no one was looking so she could buy each child a much deserved and needed Christmas present of clothes. She never asked for this but I knew it was in her heart. I could see the months of strain and worry ease in her face and demeanor

since my first visit. Together we found a family in a desperate struggle to survive. Together, our Caring and Sharing, with compassion for our fellow creations helped heal a good family.

Thank you for Caring and Sharing. God Bless all of you.

Thanks to all of your Caring and Sharing we have met the MLH \$25,000 Matching Grant. This will enable us to remove the pain and suffering of many poverty stricken. In the near future we will show where every dollar was spent. Thank you for Caring and Sharing. God Bless you MLH for inspiring so many to help. I alone cannot help all those I have found living in desperate need. 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.

McDonald's Day Fundraiser: Please join us Saturday, December 19th, 2009. For the seventh year Bill McEssy is donating 100% of his gross sales from his 6 local McDonald's to The Time Is Now to Help. Please eat at one of Bill's following McDonald's locations: Lake Geneva, Lake Geneva Wal-Mart, Elkhorn, Delavan, East Troy, and Burlington. Every penny you spend will go to help our local poverty stricken of our communities.

A Very Special Thank You: MLH, Mark & Natalie Reno, Michael & Sue Borden, Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust, Geneva Lake Development Corp., Kaiser Chiropractic, Gary & Crystal Smith, Destinee DeCremer-Smith, Drew Linendoll, Paper Dolls, Dennis & Christine Haak, Flitcroft Septic Systems, Martin O'Brien, Lake Area Seniors, Compassionate Friends of Walworth County, Nancy Geidel, James & Marilyn Dyer, Donald & Marian Tolar, Wayne Osborn, Sal & Donna Sardina, Mary Fitzgerald, Alfred & Mildred Thorson, John & Joyce Kirkwood, Gwen Quincannon, Margarie Egger, Albert & Ellen Burnell, Gary & Jill Weckesser, Tom & Mary Roche, Ken & Nancy Fraser, Charles Koerner, Katherine Kelly, Joan Murphy, Ruth Przewoznik, Geri Hinton, Virginia Bates, James & Janice Batten, Rita Yadon, George & Karen Davis, Sr., Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Cerniglia, Molly Stotko, Norene Roth, Rich & Ginny Watson, 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.

Memorials: Robert & Thelma Parker in memory of Carl Mickelsen. Richard & Gloria Faivre in memory of Chuck Hurdis.

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