

Dear W.C.,

2/1/10

My family is in very bad shape. We have been struggling to pay our bills and are on the verge of eviction. My apartment manager has been very patient but now she really needs our rent money. She will lose her job as the apartment manager if she lets us off any longer. She has had to serve us an eviction notice. I have begged and pleaded. I am so afraid to be homeless in the dead of winter with my children. I understand she cannot lose her job because we are unable to pay our rent for several months. I feel so bad even putting her in this position because she has been so good to everyone.

I read about your organization in the newspaper and realized my only hope was to write The Time Is Now to Help a letter. I have three young children. My husband was in the construction trade but his jobs have come to a standstill. I was a stay at home mom because child care was so expensive for us it didn't make sense for me to continue working. I have been looking for a job for several months now but have not found anything. There are so many people looking for jobs. We have not been able to pay our utilities or rent for several months. I went to the food pantry last week so we would have food to eat. This is the first time we have been unable to care for ourselves and our children. It is very frightening to find ourselves about to be homeless. There is nowhere for us to go. Can you please help?

A Desperate Mom

Dear Readers,

I called this mother late in the evening since I was working at all hours to help our fellow creations. She politely answered the phone regardless of the hour I was calling. When she realized who was calling she cried out in relief. She had been waiting for several weeks. She told me she had applied for assistance everywhere but she received no help. She and her husband told me it was ok to visit them so I went right over.

We talked about their children, her job search, her husband's loss of work, and many more subjects. They admitted they never slept soundly anymore due to the constant financial worries. I could hear their fear in their voices and see their faces filled with a deep anxiety of hopelessness, while their children slept in the next room.

Their apartment was very sparsely furnished since the mother had sold everything she could to try to pay their expenses. I saw a few folding chairs around a small old table in the kitchen. The old couch had been in her mother's garage so she put that in her living room after she sold her nicer one to put food on the table. The mother broke into tears. When I looked at the father he had tears in his eyes as he hugged his wife. He told me he felt responsible for the position his family was in. I reassured him that it was not just him, it was happening to many families in our country, especially if you were employed in one of the

construction trades that was most affected by the recession. He hung his head in shame and embarrassment. I reminded them I was there to help. We went over their overdue expenses and budget. After a careful review I could see they had already cut back everywhere they could and then some. They were living without the most basic things and were due to be evicted any day. I called their landlord and arranged for 50% of their past due rent and two months into the future if the landlord would help with the balance. The landlord was a good man and agreed to help. The landlord told me about a senior woman needing help as well. He told me her apartment number since the elderly widow did not even have a phone. I told him I would check on her after my visit with the family.

After I got off the phone with the landlord we went over their overdue utilities and arranged for assistance. They did have some food in their cabinet due to a recent visit to the W.C. Family Resource Center. She was most thankful for that.

We then discussed job prospects and the job interviews both parents were scheduled for in the coming week. We said a prayer together for their success and their families well being before I left with a promise to return.

Then I paid a visit to the apartment downstairs where the senior citizen was also in need of our assistance. When I knocked on the door I was greeted by a woman with a walker wearing a jacket indoors. Her apartment was very cool. I told her who I was and asked if she would like to talk. She told me her landlord had told her about my possible visit so she invited me in. Her apartment had several old pieces of furniture in it but not much else. Her food was nonexistent. When I asked her what she had eaten that day she could not answer me and just cried. I asked her if she received Meals on Wheels and she said no. I told her I would be back in an hour and left. I went to pick up some hot food and other food for her. I then returned and put a plate of hot food in front of her and told her, "Now I can talk to you while you eat a proper meal." She had tears in her eyes but gratefully sat down to eat what she told me was the first full meal she had eaten in some time. I went over her bills and what services were available to her while she ate her food. I told her we would bring her rent up to date. I knew the landlord would help again. I told her I would have her telephone turned back on for her own safety. I networked some volunteers in the area so she would receive the assistance she needed. We talked for nearly two hours, we said our goodbyes and she gave me a long hug goodbye crying as she held on to me. She asked me, "Where did you come from?" I told her about all the caring and sharing fellow creations that make The Time Is Now to Help possible. She trembled as she said, "Tell all of them thank you and God Bless them."

Both the family and senior woman are doing much better now. The mother and father have gotten part time jobs and are sharing child care duties. This arrangement has helped their financial position for now. The senior citizen has followed through with the help of our

networking and applied for the assistance she needed. She thanked us wholeheartedly for the improvements we made to her life. Thank you for your Caring and Sharing. Together we have helped our fellow American's .

We have almost met our Christmas Blessing \$25,000 Matching Grant. Every dollar you give, another will be matched, doubling your gift of kindness. As always, every dollar will be used to help our fellow Americans who have fallen on hard times. Please help those that are in desperate need. Thank you and God Bless you.

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, MLH, Jim Bozich & Lake Geneva Gm Super Center, Paper Dolls, Snug Harbor, Corcoran Landscaping & Construction, Lyle & Anita Vorpapel, Martin O'Brien, Dennis & Christine Haak, Al & Ellen Burnell, Charles & Lucille Coates, Tim Greene, Fred Zeller & Bette Popik, Catherine Swift, Bryce Knorr, Richard & Jane Roman, Susan Russella, Blanche Schultz, Richard McCue, Charles & Barb Obligato in honor of Dan Sanders, 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