

Dear W.C.,

2/22/10

I work hard as a waitress every day. I have three children ranging from grade school to high school. I also care for my elderly father in law that has Alzheimer's. My husband died from cancer several years ago and left me with a lot of medical bills. When he became sick it was impossible to keep up with the utilities and rent. My father in law moved in when my mother in law passed away right after my husband. We thought it would be a good way to help each other. Unfortunately soon after he moved in it became apparent he had some health problems as well. He was then diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. He has good days and bad. It makes it very difficult to work outside the home but I have to work to try and pay for food, electric, gas, car insurance, etc. It is a real struggle. I care for my father in law during the day until my children get home from school. Then I go to work and my teenage daughter cares for him until I get home from work in the evenings. Then I get him to bed and do any chores that need to be done. He cannot be left alone at all since he often turns on stove burners or wanders outside without a coat. The stress of being unable to pay our bills and caring for my father in law is taking a toll on me. I really would like to ask for help with our rent. I worry about becoming homeless and putting food on the table every waking minute.

Hardworking Mother

Dear Readers,

The writer of this request for assistance was an extremely hardworking mother. This mother truly loved and cared for her father in law with the utmost patience and love. I could see her fatigue and stress and knew being the sole provider and care giver was taking its toll on her health as well. She never once complained about how hard her life had been. Instead she worried about her daughter's wellbeing, having to care for her sometimes difficult grandfather every day after school. She worried about her inability to pay for rent due to the many medical expenses she continued to pay for. She is truly a selfless woman.

After we spoke for some time we went over the different assistance that was available to her. Some programs would help to lighten her load if she applied for them. We also discussed using the food pantry to help provide enough food for her family. She agreed to go there as soon as possible. It was hard for her to take her father in law anywhere with her as he did not tolerate any change in his routine. She did not have much time left in her day other than the few hours she spent trying to get much needed rest. I arranged for a volunteer to relieve her and her daughter a few hours a week so they could complete chores, home work, and a trip to the food pantry. Also getting help from a day nurse was a huge relief to the mother/daughter caregivers. We also paid her rent and utilities up to date and into the future. This helped her to get caught up on her bills that were causing a large amount of stress.

We also provided much needed household necessities and toiletries. She also was unable to have work done on her car that was well overdue. We arranged for that work to be completed as well.

Through The Time Is Now's networking we helped get the mother a part time job she really loves. The financial difference will give them a positive budget. God Bless the new employer for helping this desperate family.

The last time we spoke she told me her father in law seemed to be doing better now that she wasn't so stressed all the time. He responds well to the new volunteer and day nurse, since everyone has a much needed break and more time for rest and sleep, he is receiving better care as well.

When I first visited all the children were very subdued. I could tell the mother's depression due to her financial struggle was affecting the children. When I brought this to the mother's attention she cried. I told her she needed to present a positive attitude of strength and hope to the children. After our assistance, the mother said, "Thanks to The Time Is Now to Help for relieving our financial burden. The children and I are much happier. God Bless all of you for putting life back into our family."

On my final visit the mother finally shared with me the anguish she had suffered during the last several months of caring for her husband. It was heart breaking for her to watch the love of her life waste away. She believes her mother in law died of a broken heart, due to the loss of her son, and feels if her father in law and children weren't there needing her she would have as well. She is determined to care for her father in law as long as possible. She does not look at him as a burden, but rather a blessing to her children, showing them how to be selfless and caring. How could The Time Is Now to Help not offer this mother, children, and grandfather a helping hand up out of their poverty and desperation? Thank you for your Caring and Sharing hearts enabling us to continue our mission to help our poverty stricken fellow American's. Together we are making a big difference, offering hope, care, and compassion.

Please remember our Summertime Foundation \$10,000 Matching Grant. Only our Caring and Sharing hearts will see our fellow creations through these desperate hard times. For 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. 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: Susan & Michael Borden, Summertime Foundation, Marshall and Abbe Bauer, Paper Dolls, Martin O'Brien, Mary Kay Ring, Francis & Nancy Branfort, Anna Cygan, Michael & Margaret Rifken, Donald & Judy Bouffiou, James & Janice Batten, Carrol Pitel, Tamara Yuknis, Lonnie & Ruth Behrens, Patricia Molkentin, Rueben & Lesley Blum, Helen Miller, Joseph & Lillian Rudolf, Astrid Peterson, Joseph & Eleanore Caldron, Mark and Sandra Schmitt, Patricia Vozel, Michael Glass, Kevin Walkowski, Gary and Jackie Heiligenthal, Flitcroft Septic Systems, Judie Paryl, Albert and Ellen Burnell, Ralph and Elaine Voss, Clifford and Louise Morris, William and Carol Perkins, James and Karen Goodrick, 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: Audrey Wunderlin-Hersko in memory of Donald Wunderlin.

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