

Dear Readers,

1/12/09

I was always very close to my mother. Since I was her last child she was older when she brought me into the world. I was not aware of our poverty level until I was around seven years old. I remember at that age kneeling and praying to God, asking for help for my dear mother. At twelve I was able to get my first job to help her with the utilities. She was reluctant to take the money that I was so proud to earn. I looked at her with a big smile on my face and said, "Mom, we're a family, I have to help." With that she reached out, hugged me, and cried.

As time went on, I was always there for her, always very considerate of any needs she might need. I thought since the first half of her life was so hard for her, I wanted to make the rest easier. As independent as my mother was, financially, there was always a need. She worked hard every day for over 52 years, never quite earning enough to get by. My Mother and I talked openly. I made sure she knew if there was anything she needed I would be there to help. I thought this was the least I could do after her many years of sacrifice and hard work to raise her family and bring me into this world.

What started out as something so negative has turned into something positive. Through my mom's moments of poverty and during times with little or no food, the electricity and heat being shut off, evictions and living in my grandmothers' attic. The one time we had a decent car that wasn't continually breaking down, we got hit by a drunk driver that had no insurance. Even though my mom got hurt her biggest pain was having to walk to work, due to the loss of the car. The positive that has come out of all this pain is The Time is Now to Help. Because of those memories, because of my vow, my promise to God to never forget those roots, together, thanks to all of you Caring and Sharing, thanks to all the saints that God has blessed me with to cross my path, I thank all of you for making my vow to God to help those living in poverty, a reality. Even though my Mother is no longer living, I still feel she is constantly with me. I know she would be very proud of the help we give through Time is Now to Help.

Together we have been helping approximately 500 people a year. In 2007 we broke all our records by helping 682. I have not had time to calculate how many we gave assistance to in 2008. The requests have nearly tripled due to our very hard economic times across our entire country, and the requests for help are much more severe.

A few months ago I was chastised by someone requesting help and it brought back memories of my Mother. When I finally got to the shelter of a senior citizen in need, I was told very boldly, just as my mother was very bold, "You know it took me six months

to write you a letter for help because I was very ashamed to have to ask, and now it has taken you nearly four weeks to come and visit me.” This was not a question, just a statement of the facts and I could not refute them. At that moment, I started going through in my mind the many commitments I have. The business I have throughout my day, the evenings I work on The Time is Now, then I thought of the other commitments I had gotten involved with. These new commitments were going to bring much needed assistance also but I knew then that I had to get back to my first vow, my first promise to help ease the pains of poverty for the elderly, children, and handicapped. My thoughts were racing through my mind, of what I have been doing, how I have been trying to help other organizations, as I knew whatever I put my efforts in, I could make a difference. I knew two things, one I had to work very hard in this economy to keep my business going, to meet my commitment to my employees and to my customers counting on me, and I have to be able to help those in need. As I explained what I was doing, this very intuitive elderly person came closer to me, reached out and hugged me, saying, “Please, you do not have to explain to me. I am just happy that you are here now, and with everything you just told me, I wonder how you made it today.” I whole heartedly hugged this person back and thanked them for understanding, but they also woke me up to the fact that I need to concentrate and get focused on my commitment to The Time is Now to Help.

I apologize to those that have been waiting for a call from me, or those of you who wonder why I do not still participate in your group, and for my gracious good friends who continue to invite me when I do not call back or show up. I have to keep my promise, my vow, to do Gods will of easing the pain and suffering. There are so many now on the brink of homelessness, I have to give the time and the effort to do everything I possibly can to stop that from happening. For those that are freezing in their homes in this brutal, snowy winter, we have to be there to help them keep their homes warm. For those that are weak from lack of food, we need to be there to provide food. For those that need transportation, like my mother when she had to walk miles to work, we have to be there to help with transportation.

Please understand, there are many we need to help now and the need is growing due to the state of our economy. For those of you who are thinking about trading in or selling your car, please donate it to The Time is Now to help these people live like proud Americans. Our fellow U.S. citizens, our fellow creations of God, they really need our help. Together we need to provide hope, like we did for the elderly person who waited for me to show up. We helped with much needed food. We prevented another person from becoming homeless. Even though utilities cannot be turned off during the winter, the stress of knowing every dollar is adding up on a past due bill, and its going to be shut

off as soon as the winter is over, can be very stressful and detrimental to health. We provided utility assistance. We gave direction to our wonderful Health and Human Services that this person was not aware of.

I want to thank everyone for Caring and Sharing, especially now during these extremely hard economic times our neighbors need our help. I also want to thank the Drescher Family Charitable Foundation for offering the wonderful opportunity of a matching funds grant for the months of January, February, and March. This is an excellent opportunity to double your donation and help the many struggling to pay for rent, utilities, food, etc., throughout our communities. I want to thank all my friends for understanding and please remember, every penny is utilized to help ease the pains of poverty for our fellow creations

Health and Happiness, God Bless Everyone, WC

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 Special Thank You to: Michael & Sue Borden, the Drescher Family Charitable Foundation, Summertime Foundation, the Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Paul Ziegler & Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Mark & Patti Kaczmarzyk, John & Kathryn Swanson, Daniel & Sandra Derrick, John Pomeranz, Steven & Susan Woodcock, Matt & Carole Rybarczyk, Virgil & Sharon Wuttke, Jean Zitzler, Robert & Joanne Batzler, James & Susan Mirabella Jr., Lu Schinke, Timothy Greene, Richard & Jane Roman, Amy Rose Marino in honor of her parents Paul & Sue Marino, Tyler Benvenuto, Steven & Deidre Trumble, Thomas & Sandra Beinert, Joseph & Lois Haas, Howard & Maureen Gleason, John Mulcahy, Katherine Kelly, Carl & Lorraine Williams, Drs. Scot & Mona Hodkiewicz, Donald & Kim Parker, Immanuel United Church of Christ, Gary & Jill Weckesser, Clara Berger, Randy Christenson, Michol Ann Ford, Cress Spring Bakery, Jon Reavis, Elkhorn Chemical & Packaging, Dennis & Barbara Sulik, Michael & Phyllis Gaines, Dr. Mark & Cindy Brower, 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: The following donations were given in loving memory of Cheryl Ponsonby: James & Carolyn Foster, Stephen & Joan Birkholz, and Robert & Mary-

Margaret Jones.

Needed Cars: Please donate your used cars. Please think of those in desperate need of transportation to get to and from work so they can provide the daily necessities for their families. Please Care & Share.

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. You can even shop your favorite online retailers. It is a fun and easy way to help the poverty stricken.

Endowments/Helping Others through Your Will: For those of you who wish to leave an endowment for the poverty stricken, we would greatly accept any gifts. Please think of those in desperate need, good people, living in fear of poverty and consider helping them through your will.

Donate Stocks/ Mutual Funds, Let the Government Contribute: Consider donating shares of appreciated stocks and mutual funds to The Time Is Now to Help and receive twice the benefits from your gift. Please call 262-249-7000 if you would like more information.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org