

Dear W.C.,

1/19/09

I don't even know where to begin. Our lives have changed so drastically from just one year ago. My husband was severely injured while at work. He was in the hospital for several weeks in intensive care and then moved for a month to a rehab center. He has made a very slow recovery from a head injury that has caused permanent damage to his motor and speech skills. He will never be able to work again at the profession he loved and spent the last 20 years working so hard at.

While my husband has been working so hard to regain his basic life skills I have been trying to keep my low paying job just to earn enough for food. My husband has always been the main bread winner in the family and paid our mortgage, car payments, utility bills from his pay check. I have been unable to keep up with the payments on any of these things. We have since lost our home and car. Both of our parents are older and unable to care for us. They are dealing with their own health problems and financial difficulties. Our one child is grown, lives out of state, and is going through a very difficult divorce at this time. She can barely care for herself much less her homeless parents. I lost my job due to my many days off caring for my husband and driving him to all his rehabilitation and doctors appointments. We now are going from food pantry to food pantry and sleeping in our car.

We are overwhelmed, depressed, and financially broken. Could you please help us?

A Devoted Wife

Dear Readers,

I edited this letter quite a bit as it was over 3 pages long. There were more details of their personal struggles than could fit in this column. It took a lot of prayers to see the transition of this couple from the intense pains of poverty to getting them back on their feet. I read letters daily from people that have their lives altered. Whether it is health care related, such as cancer, stroke, heart disease, diabetes, etc., or an accident, their lives are forever changed. Sometimes it is the loss of a job, a house fire, death of a loved one, or a work related injury, such as this letter. Attempting to carry on after these events can be overwhelming and break the human spirit. Unfortunately, the bills and responsibilities do not cease when your loss of income hits. You are still required to pay your rent, mortgage, utilities, insurance, taxes, and daily living costs.

We helped this husband and wife to apply for housing assistance. The wife is now able to work part time and leave her husband for short periods of time. Thru our direction to

Health and Human Services she has been able to obtain some home health care assistance. We also provided utility assistance since they could not obtain utilities until their past bills were paid. We also provided them with some gas vouchers to get to and from his rehabilitation appointments and so she could drive to her job. They still had their second older car since it did not have a loan on it. That was the car they were sleeping in on many cold nights. It needed a few repairs to keep it running safely and those were completed for them. The wife no longer feels alone and overwhelmed. She knows she has help from her Caring and Sharing friends of The Time Is Now to Help. Once again, together, we restored people's faith and brought them out of the pains of poverty. God Bless everyone for helping.

I want to thank everyone for Caring and Sharing, especially now during these extremely hard economic times. 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. Thank you for Caring and Sharing.

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, William & Lois McEssy Foundation, Summertime Foundation, the Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Paul Ziegler & Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Paper Dolls, Dennis & Christine Haak, James & Karen Goodrick, Martin O'Brien, Gerald & Marilyn Wilkin, Alfred & Mildred Thorson, Harry & Phyllis Tiggemann, Albert & Ellen Burnell, Sandralee Thiele, Dr. Mark & Cynthia Brower, James & Janice Batten, Walter & Donna Anderson Jr., Carrol Pitel, Traver Grade School staff in honor of Administrator Mary DeYoung, 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: Gerald & Judith Kozenski in memory of Cheryl Ponsonby. Lloyd Cornue in memory of his dear departed wife Virginia.

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