

Dear W.C.,

1/26/09

My family is in desperate need of assistance. We are several months behind in our rent, utilities, and are very low on food. I am married to a wonderful, kind man that I love with all my heart. We have three children. The problem is my husband has a learning disability caused from a brain injury during child birth. He is the gentlest soul, but cannot manage the tasks necessary to hold down a job. He helps around the house and can help care for the children. I married him knowing our life would not be easy, I just didn't expect the economy to become as bad as it has. I lost my higher paying job due to my company downsizing and had to take a lower paying job. This has put a terrible strain on us financially. I feel blessed at this time to even have a job but supporting five people on one meager paycheck is nearly impossible. My husband does receive some assistance but it is not enough for all of us. I have asked our church and families for help but they are all struggling in this economy as well. I have always heard about the working poor and now I have become one of them. I am trying to stay strong for my family but the stress is overwhelming. Please help.

A Hard Working Mother & Wife

Dear Readers,

I open many letters from the working poor. It seems no matter how hard you work your paycheck just cannot cover all your expenses. This is especially hard when you are the main source of income for a family of five. Add to that caring for children, a home, and a disabled husband; she has a lot on her shoulders.

The husband and wife have a special bond that has weathered many difficult situations, and it will weather this one as well. After speaking with the husband I can see why she married him, even being realistic in knowing their life together would never be easy. He is the kindest person and truly loves his wife and children. When it comes to household tasks he is very helpful. As the wife said, he is unable to maintain focus for long, can only read and write at a beginner level, and does not understand the concept of time management. His heart is 100% into his family, always trying to do his best to help. He told me, "I know I have a problem. The kids are smarter than me but I always have a lot of love." I smiled and told him how blessed his wife and children are to have so much love.

The wife has always worked hard and does not regret any choices she has made. She loves her husband and children and is willing to continue to work hard for them. She just needs to be paid at a level that can support their very basic needs. They do not live

extravagantly. They are very frugal with their utility usage, food, and daily necessity expenses. Their rent is reasonable and they own one older car. Due to the wife's previous income they were denied food stamps. She has reapplied for both food stamps and housing assistance.

We helped to bring them up to date on their rent and utilities. We provided them with gas and food vouchers. They hope to be able to keep up to date with everything now that they are caught up. The mother got a second job for 16 hours a week. After reviewing their budget, our help and the second job was a god send.

My dear friends, there are so many in need. Keep them in your prayers as they struggle through these difficult times. The Time Is Now to Help will continue to Care and Share and to be here to help lift up our fellow creations of God. There are just so many...

I want to thank everyone for Caring and Sharing, especially now during these extremely hard economic times and our very harsh winter. 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 for every dollar you donate to be matched with another. Together we need to help our fellow American's 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, Dan & Maureen Winkler, Martin O'Brien, Frances Flucke, Bernie & Bonnie Kruizenga, Margarie Egger, Jon Reavis, Ron & Patricia Sarna, Bryon & Sharon Dixon, Mark & Patricia Solheim, Bob & Ruby Boniface, Robert Dooley, Shawn & Donna McLafferty, June Davidsen, Flitcroft Septic Systems, Alliant Energy Foundation, 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:** Pat Sherman in loving memory of Eileen Cribben.

**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](http://www.goodsearch.com) and help to raise funds for The Time Is Now to Help. Just make [www.goodsearch.com](http://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](http://www.timeisnowtohelp.org)