

Dear W.C.

1/11/10

We are a young married couple. My husband and I graduated from college and we thought we would be able to find jobs immediately in the fields we earned our degrees in. When that did not seem to work out, we took a waiter and waitress job to help pay the bills. Then my husband lost his job due to the restaurant going out of business. Shortly after that I began to have problems breathing. It turns out I have asthma, exacerbated by the bar/restaurant I work at being filled with cigarette smoke every night I work. We do not have health insurance and I have already had to make several trips to the emergency room and purchase several expensive prescriptions. We have really found ourselves in a bad position financially. We are behind in our rent, utilities, and car payment. We have been eating as little food as possible and never eat out. I never dreamed we would go to school all those years to come out in debt, unable to find a job, uninsured, and nearly homeless. The doctor told me I need to get a job where I am not exposed to second hand smoke but I can't lose the only income I have right now.

Dear Readers,

I called the number provided on the letter and it was answered by a woman that was coughing uncontrollably. She asked me to hold on until she could catch her breath. She apologized and explained she had just gotten off work and needed to use her medication. She said the bar had been especially smoky that evening and it had taken a toll on her. After she used her medication I could hear her voice and breathing improve. I asked her when she would be available for a visit and she replied, "Right now please."

It was late but I could hear the desperation in her voice, so I agreed to visit that night. When I arrived at their apartment I could see the lights were on and they were waiting for me. A young couple enthusiastically invited me into their small apartment. I could immediately see the love and caring they shared with each other. When I commented on that they said they knew from the moment they met they were meant to share their life together. The young woman added, "I just never knew things would be this hard. Between my asthma and my husband losing his job, it has been a constant struggle."

We talked about their education, their present job and loss of job, and the woman's illness. I could still hear a wheeze in her voice as she spoke. She said she had been tirelessly looking for another job that would not expose her to second hand smoke. For now her employer had agreed to keep her working only in the nonsmoking section, but she still had to go to the bar to order beverages for her tables. Several of the other waitresses are trying to remove that

exposure by filling her drink orders for her, but when they get busy they do not have the time. It is the best she can do for now since they have no other source of income.

The husband spoke confidently about a job interview he was going to the following week. They both were so hopeful. It would actually provide them with a large pay increase and benefits. After looking around the apartment I could see how much they needed this job. The cupboards and refrigerator were nearly empty. The room was pretty chilly due to the heat being turned down so low. I did not see evidence of any alcohol or other abuses. When we spoke about their financial state and went over their budget it became even clearer how much they were struggling. The waitressing job barely covered the rent and gas for the car. There was not anything left to pay utilities, food, car repairs, and medical bills.

The next day I spent time looking into their situation. I talked to her employer, looked at their college backgrounds, called their landlord, spoke to the pastor at their church,... I found they are intelligent, hard working, good people, trying to make a life together in a difficult recession. They help out at the church, never cause a disturbance at their apartment, have a very good education, and are hard workers. They just needed a helping hand from TheTime Is Now to Help to get them on their feet again.

The Time Is Now to Help immediately provided utility and food assistance. I referred them to the W.C. Family Resource Center for food assistance in the future. We paid their rent that was already several days overdue. They shared a car that needed several repairs. Those were completed for them as well. The next time we spoke they were happy to report the husband had successfully attained the job he interviewed for. They were so happy to finally be able to pay their bills. The wife was able to quit her job waitressing and has for now found a job in a smoke free environment. It is a big pay cut for her but she can again breathe and her health is improving dramatically. She even joked that she will return to waitressing when the antismoking law goes into effect next summer, if she does not have a job in her chosen field by then. It was refreshing to see so much hope and happiness for the future, even during such unstable times. Thanks to all of your Caring and Sharing we offered a young couple a helping hand up and hope for the future.

Please remember our Christmas Blessing \$25,000 Matching Grant to carry us into the deep of winter. 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.*

P.S. I have had several inquiries into what W.C. stands for. The answer is With Christ. All the Caring and Sharing that is offered to our fellow creations I do With Christ in my heart.

**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:** Larry & Vern Magee, Bill & Lois McEssy, MLH, Jim Bozich & Lake Geneva Gm Super Center, Bernard Labovitch, Joyce Hall, Paper Dolls, Leather Lips Watersports, Dennis & Christine Haak, Martin O'Brien, Donald & Kim Parker, Chris & Kelly Welch, Carol Meyer, Kim Olsen, Ann Pienkos, Lorraine Williams, Matt & Carole Rybarczyk, Victor & Doris Kranitz, Elizabeth Adelman, Grant & Annamarie McMillin, Deborah Teschke, Thomas & Caryl Benson, John & Susan Piala, Shawn & Donna McLafferty, Ellen Flanagan, Sally Harper, William & Sandra Blaesing, Robert Ponsonby, Carl Wallace, Ann Kehl, John & Barbara Kumbier, Sandra Jacobson, Donald & Nancy Roberts, Joel Voss, Marianne, Sue, Jim, & Melody of Thelen Total Construction in honor of Randy Thelen's Birthday, 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:** Orval & Jane Volbrecht in memory of Jim Tweed.

**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](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.

Please visit: [www.timeisnowtohelp.org](http://www.timeisnowtohelp.org)