

Dear W.C.

1/4/10

I am a single mother of a wonderful 10 year old daughter. My car broke down last fall and I have been riding my bike to work 5 days a week since then. Rain, shine, sleet, snow, I am riding my bike. I am only able to grocery shop by bike with a back pack on my back. I really can't afford to buy any more food than will fit in a backpack anyway. I am continually afraid my daughter will become sick and not only do we not have health insurance, I could not even bring her to the doctor on my bicycle. I know there are many people reaching out to you for help right now. It breaks my heart to ask for help with a car but I do not know any other way to help my daughter and myself survive this. I cannot risk losing my job and believe me when I show up for work soaking wet or half frozen I am not making a very good impression on my boss. I was only late for work once since my car broke down and that was because of a lightning storm last fall. I was afraid I would be struck by lightning and tried to wait out the storm before peddling to work. The storm did not stop so I had to ride through it anyway. Not one person stopped to ask how I was as they drove by dry and safe in their cars. Our world seems to have become such a cold place. I guess I am looking for a ray of hope and faith during this cold, lonely winter.

Please Help.

Carless Mom

Dear Readers,

What reached out to me immediately, besides this mother's amazing strength and resourcefulness, was the mother's feeling of desperation while struggling alone with her daughter. She was not asking for any help other than a desperately needed car. As anyone knows it is nearly impossible to navigate in life without some form of transportation. Public transportation is not readily available. Most people have to travel some distance to and from their jobs, if they are lucky enough to have a job. This mother was no different as her job was a very long bike ride, each direction. That may be nice on a summer morning but not something you want to do on a dangerous highway during the winter or a rain storm.

When I arrived to a small apartment complex I saw a young girl watching out the window for me. She jumped up and ran to open the door with the mother before I could even knock. After introductions they invited me in. The first thing I saw was an older bicycle standing just inside the door. The mother said she kept it inside so it would not be stolen or frozen in a snow pile. She could not risk losing her only mode of transportation. After talking with them for a while the mother asked the daughter to go to their shared bedroom to read her book so we could talk. The daughter gave her mother a loving hug and left the room.

The mother began to tell me about herself. She was married young to her high school sweetheart. They were managing fine on their own until he began to drink after work with his work friends. She noticed his personality changing and soon he became verbally abusive. He lost his job and then became physically abusive. She could no longer tolerate his behavior towards herself or their daughter so she moved out. He has since moved out of state and they have divorced. The last she heard from him he was still drinking and did not have a job. He does not pay any child support. She said she still grieves for the man he was before he became an alcoholic.

She managed to keep her job through all this and was able to live a very simple life with her daughter and herself before her old car broke down for good. This put a terrible financial and physical strain on their lives. She has to get up extra early in the morning to ride her bike to work. She does not get home until later, due to the extra time spent riding a bike on dark streets. She lives in fear of sickness or injuries due to the strain on her body and lack of health insurance. I really felt The Time Is Now to Help needed to provide this hard working mother with a safe, reliable form of transportation, a car.

I left her apartment inspired to help her. I contacted her boss. He confessed to seeing her arrive at work either drenched from the rain or half frozen, and he knew she was riding a bicycle to work. A friend of The Time Is Now to Help said they had a car to donate. The car was a very clean, good running car, perfect for this mother and daughter. It needed a very minor repair. I called the mother to give her the good news. She broke into tears on the phone. She asked me to hold on and I could hear her crying and calling out to her loving daughter. I then heard both of them crying and talking with excitement. The mother got back on the phone repeatedly saying in a trembling voice, "Thank you, thank you, thank you."

When I arrived the next day the mother and daughter both ran to the vehicle and were as excited as could be. They both hugged each other and cried happy tears. The car would change their lives so much for the better. We got the vehicle registered and filled the tank with gas for them. They were unaware more assistance was to come.

The next day in the mail she received a check for her rent. We also provided her with some clothing and gas vouchers. She called and left us a wonderful message of thanks. Then several days later a heartfelt thank you letter arrived. Her words were full of sincere thanks and appreciation. She said, "Since the moment The Time Is Now stepped into our lives, I have felt a peace and calm come over us. We now know there are people in the world that are compassionate, caring, and warm. Thank you to everyone at The Time Is Now to Help for your Caring and Sharing hearts. God Bless you all." I could not have said it any better. Together, we are doing our part to make our world a better place. God Bless.

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, Eye Physicians & Surgeons, Dr. Mark Brower & Staff, Jim Bozich & Lake Geneva Gm Super Center, Paul Ziegler HS, Mark & Natalie Reno, Paper Dolls, Leather Lips Watersports, Dennis & Christine Haak, Martin O'Brien, Elaine Voss, Marcia Madaus, Randy Christenson, Ron & Carolyn Bloch, Terry Savage, John & Roberta Hunt, Richard & Dianne Dunham, The Taylor Family, Paul & Audrey Rauhut, Richard & Karen Granahan, Les & Pauline Malsch, Frank & Anna Guske, Lake Geneva Lioness Club, Jan Stubbs, Cindy Lombardi, Lynn Jeka, Cheryl & Autumn Spruce in honor of their family & friends, Nicole Holt in honor of Barb Kayser, Francine Pease & Thomas Grotelueschen, Donna & Wilburn Harding, Jr., Marcie Hollmann, Thomas & Susan Stelling, Bemis Company Foundation, Stephen & Janice Timmerman, Jeff & Jan Beardsley, James & Mary Johnson, the tenants of Jackson Creek Apartments, Karl Terpstra, Kenneth Terpstra, Agnes Terpstra, Judy Hellenga, 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: Laurie Holton in memory of Bob Holtan.

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