

Dear W.C.,

7/27/09

I recently moved back to the area to care for my mother and handicapped brother. I was living in another state with my child. I have had to work and support both myself and my child on my own for five years now. I did o.k. until the restaurant I was waitressing at went out of business. I tried to find another waitressing job but they were impossible to find. Then I got a letter telling me my mother was dying from cancer and they needed me to come home. I was shocked by the letter and came home as soon as I could.

My mother was caring for my handicapped brother on her own. My father died years ago. When I became pregnant it was too much for my mother to handle so I moved away. Whenever I called her she had nothing nice to say to me. She was upset that I seemed to throw my future away.

What I came home to shocked me even more. My mother had wasted away to nothing. Caring for my brother was all she could manage to do, and I don't know how she even did that. She had always taken good care of our home and our family. The house had fallen into ruin and everything was a mess. I feel so guilty for not coming home sooner. The assistance and benefits they receive does not even begin to cover their expenses. My brother and mother both have so many medications they need. There are so many things they need I haven't been able to get. I am so overwhelmed. On top of all this I have not been able to find a job. I need to have some income so I can help out more than just the daily needs I am taking care of. We have hardly any food. Our utilities haven't been paid and neither has the last two month's rent. This is so much worse than I ever thought possible.

An Overwhelmed Daughter

Dear Readers,

I called this overwhelmed young mother as soon as I opened her letter. I could feel her desperation pouring off the pages. She immediately broke down in tears when she realized who was calling her. I let her speak uninterrupted as she truly seemed to need to talk to someone about the situation her family has found itself in. She has found herself at a young age not only caring for a child, but also for her handicapped brother and dying mother. She did not know where to go for help. When I went to see them she explained more. Her mother told her about The Time Is Now to Help, but never could write the letter herself. Her mother had never applied for other services that were available to her because she always said she could do it all herself. That worked for her until she became ill herself. Now she does not even have the energy to feed herself. She had been sick for a long time before she went to see a doctor. By then it was too late. She opted for no treatment and only has a short time left.

She weakly told me she did not want to burden her daughter with her illness. She said she knows her daughter worked hard to raise her child herself. She said she regrets all the discouraging words she said to her and wishes she could have back all the years they spent apart. The mother was so weak she could no longer speak. She reached for her daughter but her arm collapsed to the bed. This brought tears to all of our eyes. I watched as her daughter lovingly consoled her and told her she understood. Her life had been filled with hard daily work caring for her home and handicapped child, followed by the death of her husband, making the best of living on the edge of poverty at all times. Her golden years were spent in fear and hunger in our great United States. This has been the answer to millions of American's due to global greed vs. taking care of our own.

I called one of our volunteers and they brought them several bags of fresh food. I picked up some hot meals. The daughter and I then sat down and went over their finances. They really needed help bringing their utilities and rent payments up to date. The mother had made several changes to the house herself years ago that made the home much easier for her brother to navigate. She plans on continuing to care for her brother. We talked about her home health care options and I referred her to other resources. She is smart and is learning where to turn to for the assistance they need. She has hardly had time to even think about her needs, both emotionally and financially. She said she is determined to find work to support her family, and I believe she will.

Thanks to all of your Caring and Sharing we were able to help ease the pain and suffering of several fellow creations.

Please take advantage of Richard Driehaus' Matching Grant. There are many fellow American's desperately in need of our help to ease their pain and suffering of poverty. Every dollar you donate will be matched by Richard, doubling your donation. At this time we have many desperate requests for assistance. Please, Please Help.

Thank you for Caring and Sharing.

Health & Happiness, God Bless Everyone, W.C.

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: Paper Dolls, Ron & Kerrie Vyskocil, James & Janet Happ, Martin O'Brien, Jack & Barb Rowe, Dan & Maureen Winkler, Michael Glass, Bemis Foundation, Margarie Egger, Joseph & Lois Haas, Steve & Margaret Helen Buchanan, John

& Sally Dicmas, Lorene Schlie, Leroy Vogt, Drescher Family Charitable Foundation, W.C. Family Resource Center/Food Pantry volunteers, Michael & Sue Borden, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Bill & Lois McEssy, 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: Phyllis Weeden & Friends in memory of Ken Weeden. Tom & Susan Stelling in memory of Jeff & Julie Partridges's wedding Anniversary.

Food Pantry info: If you would like to volunteer at the W.C. Food Pantry/ Family Resource Center please call Frank Guske, Jr. at (312) 656-6178. Frank is coordinating all volunteer efforts. Please volunteer for a two hour shift Wednesdays or Saturdays, between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Desperately Needed Cars: If anyone has a car they are thinking of trading in, or have an extra car you are not using, please think of sharing it with one of the many in desperate need of transportation.

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 some of 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