

Dear W.C.,

7/5/2010

I never thought this recession would go on for so long. I have seen so many of my friends lose their jobs and then their homes. I always counted my blessings and thanked God I had a job and could pay my rent. I have a nine year old son that spends half his time with his father and half his time with me. My ex-husband has always paid his child support and been a wonderful father. Then last year my ex-husband lost his job and he is unable to offer any child support. He is frantically looking for another job. I recently needed emergency surgery and will be out of work for the next two months. I will only be receiving half of what I usually earn and on top of that no child support. I tried applying for assistance at several agencies and was told there is nearly a two year wait. Now I see how fast some one's life can change. I have never felt so helpless. I am supposed to be resting and recuperating but instead I am fearfully watching my bills pile up and my refrigerator empty. Could The Time Is Now help?

Dear Readers,

This mother was on a waiting list of people to help. When I called her late one evening I could tell she was already asleep. I apologized for my late call but she was quick to assure me it was worth waking up for. She told me things had become worse since she had written the letter. She had developed an infection at the incision and her recovery was delayed even longer. Her health insurance she had through her employer did not cover hardly any of the expenses. Her rent was unpaid for the month and she had not paid her utilities. She broke down in tears several times during our conversation. I told her I would visit the next day.

The next day I arrived in the afternoon. When I knocked the door was answered by her young son. He asked me in and led me to where his mother was resting on the couch. She still looked pale and ill. She told me she had been battling one illness after another and couldn't seem to get on her feet again. She attempted to get up and I immediately told her to stay where she was. I sat in a chair next to her and we began to talk. She pointed to a picture on her wall showing her running a marathon. She said that was when her life was in order and she was healthy. She ran marathons for charity and her ex-husband and son cheered her on. She also said she volunteered for several organizations on the weekends when her son was with his father. I told her to visualize herself as healthy again. I told her to close her eyes and picture herself running that marathon again and the wonderful feeling she got from it. She did as I said and when she opened her eyes after several minutes she said she almost could feel the joy again. I told her to visualize that every day and use that as her goal to regain her health. I saw the beginnings of her first smile.

We then began to talk about her financial situation. She said she never lived beyond her means but did not have any savings either. She could just pay her expenses and there was

never much left after that. She spoke fondly of her ex-husband and his continued presence in their lives. She said he had changed quite a bit since their divorce. She said he had always been a good man but had taken up drinking during their marriage. His drinking was more than she could deal with at the time with a young child. She did admit she had been too quick to get a divorce. Her ex-husband has been sober for several years now and has become the father she always knew he could be. Then he lost his job and she helped to keep him strong during the following tough months. He called her nightly for support and she helped him through the temptation to drink. He had told her that his love for their son and her was more important than alcohol. Then she fell ill and he was there to care for her and their son as she tried to regain her strength. Now they are both out of work. They have not paid their rent or utilities. I made a suggestion and waited to see her response. I suggested they save money and move in together. He could care for her until she was well enough to return to work. The Time Is Now to Help would pay for one of their back rent and utilities and provide some food. She said her ex-husband truly was her best friend and only family she had. I saw a second smile fill her face as she told me she would call him that evening.

The next time we spoke she sounded much better. The loving care from her ex-husband had truly helped her to recover much quicker than she had thought. He had moved in within a few days of her asking. She told me he shared the second bedroom with his son and they were having a great time with the arrangement. He had made a trip to the food pantry and we had also provided them with some food vouchers. The mother had called her employer and he told her job was still available if she could start the following week. She said she felt strong enough to return. The father had found two part-time jobs.

The mother sent a letter thanking us for our help and prayers. She also thanked me for the nudge she needed to renew her relationship with her ex-husband. They are working together to make it through tough times with love for each other and knowing there are good people who really care, to help.

Please consider donating at this time as every dollar you donate will be matched by another, doubling your donation by the Richard Driehaus Matching Grant. Thank you for caring and sharing. Together we make a big difference helping our fellow creations of God.

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.

Gage Lake Geneva Cruise Line Helps: We have been offered another wonderful

fundraising opportunity by Gage Lake Geneva Cruise Line. They are offering every Thursday evening a Cocktail Cruise to benefit The Time Is Now to Help. This cruise is available every Thursday boarding at 6:15 p.m. and returning at 8 p.m. The cruise features a hi-lite tour of the lake shore estates, entertainment, and a complimentary boarding beverage. When calling for reservations you need to mention code: TIN for Time Is Now and we will receive \$10 of each ticket sale. Individuals, groups, or your organization will be honored for caring and sharing. What a great way to enjoy the beauty of Lake Geneva and give back to those less fortunate in our area. Call (262) 248-6206 for reservations.

A Very Special Thank You: Paul Ziegler, Little Professors Learning Center, Martin Business Group, Tom & Mary Johnson, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Martin O'Brien, The Stone Specialists, Elizabeth Zabler, Thomas Reynolds, Jr., Ruth Hanson, Bonita Schauder, Richard Jais, Lawrence & Barbara Thibault, John & Kristi Hugunin, Donald & Jean Smith, Juanita Coleman, 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.

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