

Dear W.C.,

6/07/10

I am writing to ask for help for a single mother and her children. I don't know how they are even getting by. I drive past their small rundown house every day on my way to work. I am just a concerned neighbor that has noticed a fellow creation in need. All I know is she is raising two children on her own, and one of her children has special needs. Her car looks and sounds like it is falling apart. I'm actually worried for their safety every time I see her drive by. It's easy to see the house is in need of some major repairs. The mother looks so sad, tired and thin when I see her working outside. I wish I could offer her help but my family is struggling to get by as well. Could you please check in on my neighbor?

Dear Readers,

I contacted the writer of the letter to get some more information. All she could offer was the same information contained in her letter. She also said she felt guilty not stopping to talk to this mother herself. She said she just had not felt comfortable and she felt unable to offer any assistance financially. I assured her an offer of friendship can be very helpful as well. We never know what our neighbors may need, and sometimes it is more than financial assistance. After she gave me the address I told her I would be checking on this mother and children immediately.

She did not have a telephone so I drove right over to the address given to me by the neighbor. It was easy to see which home she was concerned about. The homes in the neighborhood were not large or fancy by any means, but one was in much worse condition than the rest. There was plastic over a few broken windows. The stoop had separated from the front door and what was left of it was crumbling in ruins. The paint was peeling, the gutters were sagging, and the roof had obvious leaks. I knocked on the back door since the front door looked dangerous to even approach. I could hear young children's voices coming from inside. The mother hesitantly opened the back door. She did indeed look tired and thin. I quickly introduced myself and handed her my card. She knew about The Time Is Now. I explained one of her neighbors had become concerned for her families well being. She admitted her gas had been shut off weeks ago. She asked me in to talk.

As she opened the door I could see the two children. One seemed to be a preschooler and the other was around 7 or 8. The child was sitting in the corner rocking and talking to herself. The mother briefly explained she had special needs and would not acknowledge I was there. The older child was trying to talk to her and comfort her.

The mother asked me what I was doing there. I assured her I was there to help her family in their struggle. She looked away obviously ashamed. She said, "I have tried so hard to keep my family cared for. I am so embarrassed that my neighbors can see how badly I am caring

for my children.” She started to cry and sob. I told her there were no complaints of how she was caring for her children; just a good neighbor recognized they needed help like so many other fellow American’s. She said, “I love my children. They are my life. I am so embarrassed.” Then I said to her, “You have nothing to be embarrassed about. You have tried very hard to lovingly care for your children. All you need is a helping hand.” She looked down and I could see the tears flowing down her cheeks as she told me how she had gotten to this point.

She had married in her early twenties to who she thought was a loving and kind man. He soon developed a drinking problem. When he was drunk he would often become physically abusive. The mother admitted he had hit her many times during her difficult second pregnancy. After her daughter was born with special needs she knew she had to get away from him. Her husband has skipped out of town without finalizing their divorce and has not paid any child support. He is nowhere to be found. Due to his violent nature she is continually afraid he will show up one day.

The young mother was left the house by her mother when she died. It was in need of major repairs long ago. She told me the taxes were unpaid and they are soon to be evicted. My advice to her was to let the old house go. The outstanding taxes and amount of repairs required to even make it safe enough to live in, was more than she could ever afford or the house was worth. We got to work looking for safe affordable housing. We also brought her utilities up to date to enable her to be eligible for utilities when she moved. We provided her with food and food vouchers. After looking at her car I could see why the neighbor had been so concerned. It was an accident waiting to happen. It had almost 185,000 miles on it and seemed to show every one of those miles on the bald tires and rusting body. Two windows did not open and the brakes were bad. We provided her with a car that had been recently donated to us. It was an older vehicle but was a much safer mode of transportation for her family.

The next time we spoke she was preparing to move into her apartment. Her daughter with special needs was enrolled in a program to give her the help she needed. Her deep fear of strangers was the result of the many memories she had of her violent father. The mother said she was bringing her daughter to their new apartment everyday to get her used to the new surroundings. She also had applied for several part time jobs to work at when her daughters were at school. This will help them to pay for food and utilities. They are all so very grateful for the assistance The Time Is Now to Help has given them. The mother is also grateful for the neighbor who wrote the letter and also knocked on her door several days after I did. She said she has become a friend and is even helping her pack and move. She tearfully said, “Prior to this friend I had no one to talk to. I am so happy now because God has brought my children and me a friend and The Time Is Now to Help.” Thank you for Caring and Sharing.

The Time Is Now to Help is asking for your assistance at this time. We find ourselves unable to help the many turning to us in their time of need. We have many people on the verge of eviction and living with disconnected utilities. We are asking for your support so we can continue our mission of compassion. Thank you for Caring and Sharing for our fellow American's.

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.

**A Very Special Thank You:** Badger FFA, Teacher Tom Sheeley and students of the Badger High School Automotive class, Jim Bozich & Lake Geneva Chevrolet-Buick-GMC Supercenter, Martin Business Group, Interstate Insurance, Lake Geneva Animal Hospital, The Geneva Inn, Ryan Braun's Tavern & Grill, Popeye's, Spiegelhoff & Associates, The Baker House, Kune's Country Ford, Lake Geneva Area Realty, John & Moe for the SU-MOE Golf Scramble, Martin O'Brien, Paul Ziegler, Rueben & Lesley Blum, Gary & Jackie Heiligenthal, Eli & Charleen Nieuwenhuis, 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:** Rudolph & Donna Zwolfer in memory of their brother in law Fred Schwartz.

**We Desperately Need Cars:** Please donate a used car to help our fellow American's get to work and other daily necessities.

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