

Dear W.C.,

6/08/09

I am a middle aged woman trying to live on disability. I have been disabled for the last fifteen years due to a car accident caused by a drunk driver. The driver was not insured and walked away uninjured. They served the minimum sentence and went on with their life. I feel as though I was served a life sentence of struggling with my disabilities. I understand they are trying to make the drunk driving laws much more strict. I for one pray they do. The person that struck me was a repeat offender and driving with a suspended license. They crossed the center line and hit me head on. I am permanently disfigured and live in chronic pain. My back causes me constant pain. They say there is nothing else they can do for me medically. Even if I could physically withstand the pain no one would hire me due to the horrible scars on my face. I have gone through several surgeries just to repair my nose so I can breathe again. If I was a weaker person I would find it hard to go on. I know God gives me the strength to face each day.

The reason I am writing for help is I have been falling behind in my bills. My disability does not seem to go far enough. I have no children. My marriage fell apart several years after the accident. I don't blame my ex-husband. He did what he could but the constant strain was too much. We remained friends but I cannot ask him for anymore help because he lost his job recently. Is there any assistance you could give?

Dear Readers,

This woman was extremely sensitive about her disfigurement. She said she rarely left her home due to the stares and comments from people. The only time she went out was for doctor's appointments.

She said she still has a hard time talking about her accident, even fifteen years after it happened. She said softly, "I was young, healthy and happy when my life came to a screeching halt. I was a beautiful woman, recently married, and a good job. The person that hit my car selfishly chose to drive drunk that day, not caring who they endangered." She continued, "I was on my way to meet my husband for dinner when a car swerved right in front of me. The next thing I remember was waking up in the hospital and the horrible pain that has been a part of my life ever since."

She has been to numerous doctors and surgeons. She has gone through many therapies and surgeries. None have helped significantly. She lives her life around her therapy and medication schedule. She struggles to keep her disability and receive other assistance. As anyone who receives these knows it is a constant battle with endless phone calls and paper work or they find any reason to discontinue your assistance.

She admits anger and bitterness are what drove her husband away, not her disfigurement. He has remained a faithful friend and has helped her to find her faith and find forgiveness. She said this has been a huge weight lifted off her. She does not belong to a church because she will not leave her home, but does watch many faith based shows on television. She said she also follows what is going on in our government and spends a lot of time writing letters supporting stronger drunk driving laws. She is adamant about not wanting this same fate to happen to anyone else.

When we got around to talking about her finances she admitted she had not been able to keep up with her bills. She was behind in her utility bills because she could not pay for both her low mortgage payment and utilities. She did not want to lose her small house and the payments were so low she would have a hard time renting for that amount. She is thankful she had paid down her mortgage when she was younger before the accident. Her ex-husband had helped her make ends meet for years but now he lost his job due to downsizing. He has been helping her get by for years. He also grocery shops for her every other week and drives her to her doctor's appointments.

We brought her utilities up to date and paid some for the future. She is very cautious about her air-conditioning usage in the summer but admitted to difficulty breathing when it became hot and humid outside. Our paying some into the future reassured her she could use her air-conditioning on the hot summer days ahead. We also provided her with some gas vouchers so her ex-husband could continue to drive her to her doctor appointments and pick-up food for her. He was extremely grateful and is looking hard for a new job. We provided her with some certificates for household necessities. She admitted to doing without many items we all take for granted on a daily basis.

The Time Is Now to Help could not remove the physical pain this poor woman has to endure on a daily basis, but we did remove some of the turmoil and fear she felt inside about her financial state. Constant worry and stress about paying bills and utilities being disconnected have a very real affect on a person's physical state. I spoke with her several weeks later and her comment was, "When The Time Is Now to Help removed my anxiety over how I was going to pay my bills, I felt my physical symptoms ease as well. My pain is less and I have even been able to reduce one of my medications. I am so thankful for you and everyone who supports your organization."

Together we have eased not only the psychological pain of poverty but some physical pain as well. God Bless you for Caring and Sharing.

Health & Happiness, God Bless, 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: Peck and Weis, Paper Dolls, Michael & Sue Borden, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Martin O'Brien, Albert & Ellen Burnell, Jim & Marilyn Dyer, Margarie Egger, Dan Mehring, Bemis Company Foundation, Drescher Family Charitable Foundation, W.C. Family Resource Center/Food Pantry volunteers, 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: Lee & Betty Hayles in memory of Peter Napoli. Thomas & Susan Stelling in memory of Jeff Partridge. Audrey Wunderlin-Hersko in memory of Don Wunderlin.

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