

Dear W.C.,

6/22/09

I am a single father raising 3 children on my own. My first wife died two years after our second child was born. She went in for a routine medical test but she ended up having complications and dying after several weeks in intensive care. The hospital denied all wrong doing and I was left to raise my two small children on my own, without my life partner. I was in such a state of shock that my business I ran suffered and went out of business. I eventually got myself back together enough to get a job but was still left with a huge amount owed to the hospital. I could not afford health insurance when I had my own business.

I became friends with a woman I met at work. We soon became more than friends. She was carefree and beautiful. All she wanted to do was go out and have fun. I was quickly caught in her spell even though friends and family warned me about her. She was not interested in spending any time with the children and I found myself leaving them with their grandparents more and more. I thought I was head over heels in love. When she asked if she could move in with me I was more than happy. She soon became mean to both me and the children. I was stunned by her quick personality change. She wanted to do nothing but go shopping or to the bars. Before I could end the relationship she discovered she was pregnant. She still refused to stay home. I even had doubts if the child was mine. She did not take proper care of herself and had a difficult delivery, at the hospital. After the birth she announced she wanted nothing to do with the baby or me and gave me full custody. She moved out, left the state, and went back to her seemingly carefree ways. I was at a loss on caring for a newborn, two young children, and working long hours. I could not ask the grandparents to help any more than they were. They are having health and financial problems of their own. Again my job suffered and then I was let go.

I am trying to keep my family together but it is such a struggle. I am applying for help but everyone seems surprised when I say I am a single father. They don't quite seem to understand that I am suffering just as much as the single mother's out there. Could you find it in your heart to help a man that is trying hard to love, feed, clothe, and shelter his family?

Struggling Single Father

Dear Readers,

The Time Is Now to Help assists many single parents; the overwhelming majority of these are single mothers. Many women are in abusive, unhealthy relationships and marriages. The children are suffering as well. When the relationship ends they are left to raise children on their own, often without any work experience or proper education due to their becoming involved in these relationships at such a young age. The fathers of these children often escape their responsibility to their own children by claiming joblessness or leaving the state.

It is not often we see the roles reversed, and a man taking on full responsibility of the children, but it does happen. There are many good fathers out there lovingly caring for their children, on their own. They are feeling the harsh effects of this economy, suffering through the pains of poverty, sadly watching their children go without. They have the same child care, health care, home care, worries as every single mother I have met or spoke with.

This single father was as devoted as any I have met. He openly shared his guilt and shame over the failed relationship with the youngest child's mother. He felt guilt over the times he listened to her and left his older children in the care of their grandparents when they needed his love and care. He feels she came into his life when he was most vulnerable and feeling extremely lost and lonely after his wife's death. He counts the baby a blessing and the only good thing to come out of their relationship. He and the older children all dote on her and provide her with as much love as any baby could ask for. The father said he is saddened that this woman could not share in the joy of her own child when his deceased wife would have given anything to be here raising her children.

When we began to discuss his finances he hung his head in shame. He felt like such a failure. He let his personal life interfere with his job. He was just so overwhelmed with the responsibility of a newborn. She had several complications due to her mother's lack of proper prenatal care and required round the clock care. He believes the exhaustion from lack of sleep and inability to find affordable care that would take on a special needs newborn eventually cost him all his overtime and a pay decrease. He has been unable to pay his rent for several months. His landlord has been understanding, but they count on his rent payment to cover their own bills. His utilities were on the verge of disconnection and he had very little food in the house. The Time Is Now to Help brought all these up to date. We also provided him with vouchers for clothing and gas for his car. He has been trying to get his overtime back now that the baby is healthy and able to be left with the grandparents and in child care.

His elderly landlord was very appreciative of the rent payment. They are already charging him an extremely reasonable rent but they need that money to get by. They said eviction would have been impossible for them to do. How could they put God's children out on the street? They said he is a wonderful father and his children are smart and well adjusted.

The last time we spoke he was happy to announce he had found a better job, even in this bad job market. The new job will keep them with food and shelter until things improve. He thanks everyone with The Time Is Now to Help for their support and assistance when he needed it most. It not only helped them financially, he reported our visits also raised his self confidence enough to apply for jobs he never would have attempted before. He has been through some of the hardest things life can throw at you and survived. He feels strong and healed due to our caring and sharing. Thank you for your 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: Lake Geneva Middle School Students, Peck and Weis, Paper Dolls, Michael & Sue Borden, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Martin O'Brien, Patricia Lessman, Joseph & Maureen Shaughnessy, David & Shirley Heigl, Ken & Joyce Pagel, Flitcroft Septic Systems, Bob & Barbara Zwolinski, Shawn & Donna McLafferty, 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.

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