

Our 300th W.C. Letter of Caring & Sharing “Together”

Dear W.C.,

3/09/09

I often read in the newspaper about your helping single mothers and struggling families. Would you be able to help a senior gentleman like myself?

I worked hard my whole life to be able to enjoy my retirement. My wife and I lived well for a few years into our retirements. Then my wife became ill. Her medical bills quickly used up all of our savings. By the time of her death we were so in debt I had to sell our home. Now I find myself struggling to pay for food, rent, and utilities.

Our only son died in a car accident when he was 20. I have no other relatives I can turn to for help. In fact the only family I have left is my beloved dog. My wife adopted him from an animal shelter a few years before she died and he was her truest friend. I even feel like I am letting my wife's dog down since I can no longer afford to care for him properly. I have not been able to buy dog food for several months and have been sharing what little food I have with him.

I am willing and able to work but no one will hire me I believe due to my age. I do odd jobs when I find them but they are few and far between. Social security only goes so far. Could you please help?

A Struggling Senior

Dear Readers,

I do often share with you letters concerning single mothers and families. Unfortunately, there are many more letters I receive each week that are not shared with you. I receive letters from people in all walks of life. Children through senior citizens have requested assistance. Poverty shows no preference and is hard for all ages.

This senior gentleman was indeed a gentleman by all definitions of the word. He worked hard his whole life and had seen his fair share of heartache. He survived the loss of both a son and his wife. He then had to deal with the financial fallout after her death. Life changed drastically for him at that point. He lost everything except his old car and a few pieces of furniture. He also had his beloved dog.

He moved into an apartment complex but was being harassed by some of the younger tenants. They had vandalized his car by puncturing his tires. He visits his local food pantry but is only able to obtain a small amount of food.

I told this gentleman The Time Is Now to Help would help him and he broke down in tears. I told him there are many fellow American's in need. I told him about our soon

to open food pantry/family resource center and how we will be able to feed many people struggling with hunger. It seems many people need more direction than just a food pantry may offer so we will be offering other direction through our Family Resource Center.

We went over his meticulously kept budget. He had not repaired his car yet from the last vandalism. The Time Is Now to Help had that repair completed for him. We found a low income senior apartment complex that improved his budget. The Time Is Now to Help supplied him with the necessary security deposit. He also is doing maintenance work in the complex to lower his rent. He has met his neighbors and is in a much safer, friendlier environment. He brings his dog to visit many of the shut-ins and they enjoy his company very much. He drives some of the seniors to doctor's appointments and shopping. In exchange they often make him dinner or offer him a small payment. It is just what he needs to get by.

I have come across many poverty stricken living with pets. At first you question how someone living in poverty can have a pet, but then you realize that during their great hardship often the only compassion, comfort, and friendship they receive is the unconditional love they receive from their pet. Sometimes that pet is the only thing that helps them to get out of bed in the morning and face the day. I remember visiting an elderly woman in the hospital. She was doing poorly, refusing to eat. When I reminded her she needed to get stronger so she could get home to her pet she immediately had a change of attitude. She asked for her meal tray and could not wait to get strong enough to go home to her cat. She lived another five happy years I believe due to her sense of responsibility to her pet. It gave her the determination she needed.

There are many people struggling in many different situations of poverty. It can affect any one at any age or time. It has been hard on many pet owners as they have not been able to pay the necessary expense of caring for their pets. Many of these pets are ending up in our already overburdened animal shelters. To many this is like giving up a member of your family. To this gentleman it would have broken what was left of his already ailing heart to give up his beloved dog.

I am happy to report he has been able to support himself in his new apartment. It gave him the fresh start he needed. He feels wanted and productive with his maintenance skills. It has given him new friends. It has made it possible for him to be self sufficient once again.

I again want to thank all of you for Caring and Sharing as we continue to do our part of helping our fellow creations, our fellow American's.

You have until the end of March to have your donation matched by the Drescher Family Charitable Foundation. Every dollar you donate will generously be matched doubling your contribution to those in need. Together with everyone's Caring and

Sharing we have touched the lives of many people living in poverty and provided them with the tools necessary to become self-reliant once more.

Health and Happiness, God Bless Everyone, WC

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 Special Thank You to: Michael & Sue Borden, the Drescher Family Charitable Foundation, The Rhoades Foundation, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Paper Dolls, Genoa City Cub Scout Pack 236, Pleasant Lakers Snowmobile Club, Flitcroft Septic Systems, John & Sally Dicmas, Nancy Streske, Martin O'Brien, St. James United Methodist Women, Katherine Reyno, Donald & Gladys Keith, Judy Dishneau, John & Candice Sloan, Dale & Eileen Grzenia, Bob & Barbara Zwolinski, 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

Thank You to the following Food Pantry Remodelers: Drescher Family Charitable Foundation, Jean and Kent Kruzan of Kruzan Construction, Ron Amann of R.J. Amann Builders, Drywall Plus, Advantage Alarm, Stephan Electric, Kelly Electric, Kuhl Painting, Kustom Kitchen Designs, Wisconsin Cabinets, Sherwin Williams Paint Company, Stock Building Supply, Audry Boss building inspector, Town of Geneva, Lakeland Lawn and Trash, Kahle Wholesale Flooring, The Floor Store, ABC Audio-Video, Lowe's, Komfort Heating and Cooling, Peck and Weis, Smith Mechanical Contractors, Hearthside, O'Leary Plumbing, United Services, Exclusive Millwork, SLD Services, D&D Flooring, Frank Guske, Jr., Dan Gildameister, The Boy Scouts. If you would like to volunteer at the W.C. Family Resource Center please call Frank Guske, Jr. at (312) 656-6178. Frank is coordinating all volunteer efforts and making sure our food pantry is staffed properly.

Needed Cars: Once again we have a need for used cars. If anyone has a car they are thinking of trading in or an extra car you are not using, please think of those who are in desperate need of transportation to get them to and from work so they can provide the daily necessities for their families. Without reliable transportation it makes their situation even more desperate. Please Care & Share.

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