

Dear W.C.,

3/16/09

I am a single father trying to raise three children on my own. My wife died after a long struggle with cancer. We used to run a business together. Now that I have the full responsibility of the family, without my best friend and partner to share the responsibilities, it has all become overwhelming. As I struggle with my grief I also struggle to pay the rent and utilities. The business we built together has fallen apart due to the long illness and failing economy. Our inadequate health insurance coverage has left me with medical bills I will never be able pay. I have had to pull myself out of my sadness and face the harsh reality my life has become. Could you please help my family before we end up homeless on the street?

A Desperate Father

Dear Readers,

I could feel the sadness emanating from this letter when I read it. I do not understand why some of us have to face so much hardship in this life, but I try my best to ease that hardship when I can. I felt The Time Is Now to Help could at least ease the financial burden in order to allow some spiritual healing to take place. This overwhelmed father needed time to grieve but had not even had a chance to put away his wife's personal belongings. His financial burdens kept him too busy struggling to survive and care for his children. Everywhere I looked in the home they used to share I saw signs of his wife. It had been several months since her passing and her medications were still on the counter. Her shoes and coat were still by the door. Photo albums and books were still beside her favorite chair. He said she spent her last days sharing memories of happy times with her children.

I spoke with the father alone and he cried openly. He and his wife had been high school sweethearts. They married young and started a family. They both were hard workers and began their own business after several years of working for others. Business was good and so was their family life. His wife ignored all her early symptoms believing at her age she did not have anything serious. She always said she was too busy to get sick. By the time she did see a doctor the cancer was so advanced radical surgery and intense chemo were her only options. These both failed and she was gone in months.

The three children are all under the age of 12. They each have their own way of dealing with the loss of their mother. The youngest is having the hardest time. When I spoke with the father I asked if there was any family that could help him. He said his mother lived out of state so he felt he couldn't ask her for help. I encouraged him to speak honestly with his mother and see what her response was. We also went over his mounting overdue bills and budget. It was hard for him to work full time and care for the younger children. He needed to find a reasonable and flexible childcare close to his home.

He did not feel he was ready to run the business alone. He decided to apply for several jobs and was able to put his expertise to good use. His business will be waiting for him again in the future when the economy and his state of mind improve.

He asked if I would speak to his mother for him. When I did his mother was very moved by the honesty of his situation. After speaking with his mother for quite some time she revealed the struggles she was having living on her own. I then told her she had to speak honestly to her son, and handed him the phone. She hesitantly asked him if he could find a place for her in his home. She said she would love to see her grandchildren on a daily basis and have family to care for again. He broke down in tears when she told him this. It was just what he needed to help his family heal and move on. His mother helped him to put away the daily reminders of his wife's passing and put up some pictures of them all during happier times. The children began to flourish under her loving care and they talked openly with their grandmother about the loss of their mother. They have all formed a special bond.

The rent and utilities were brought up to date. Food and gas for the car was provided. Clothing and shoes for the children were also provided. Now that the father is working full time he is able to keep up with the bills. He still dreams of the day he will run his own business again. Until that day he is glad he has a job and his children are there to greet him happily after work.

The Drescher Family Charitable Foundation will continue to match your donation until the end of March. Every dollar you donate will generously be matched doubling your contribution to those in need. There are many suffering through the pains of poverty and hunger. Please Care and Share whatever you can. Our new W.C. Food Pantry/Family Resource Center will help to ease the pain of hunger for many. Please help to make this a reality. I thank all of you for Caring and Sharing as we continue to do our part in helping our fellow creations, our fellow American's.

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, Drescher Family Charitable Foundation, The Rhoades Foundation, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Slumberland Furniture, Paper Dolls, Genoa City Cub Scout Pack 236, Pleasant Lakers Snowmobile Club, Martin O'Brien, Roundy's We Care Program, LeRoy Vogt, James & Karen Goodrick, Muriel Lake, Claudia Siesennop, Michael & Darrylin Blackburn, Frank & Mary Jean Gauger in honor of their friend Pauline Malsch's Birthday, 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, Mather Specialty, 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