

Dear W.C.,

3/30/09

My husband and I are trying hard to help our whole family. We are both in our late 60's and had hoped to be in a different position than we are now. Our oldest daughter moved back home with her three young children several months ago. She could not afford to pay for day care and rent on her own. I now care for her two youngest children when she goes to work. My youngest child is a son that was born with several developmental disabilities. He will always be living with us since he is unable to care for himself.

We are all squeezed into a three bedroom house. We can all get through this because we are a strong family and I know they all need my help right now. This has put a huge strain on our budget. There are a lot of mouths to feed and our utility bill has skyrocketed. My daughter that works always pitches in financially but we are still struggling. My husband is trying to recuperate from a recent stroke. He is relearning how to speak and walk. I worry that the financial stress is slowing his recovery. Is there any help or hope you could offer us?

A Tired Mother/Grandmother/Wife

Dear Readers,

I arrived at a very small, modest older home. There was a rundown car in the driveway. When I knocked on the door I could hear lively children's voices inside.

When I introduced myself to the older mother and father I could see the lines of fatigue and worry on their faces. They were supposed to be resting and instead were starting over again. They were very worried for what this economy had in store for all of them.

When just the mother, father, and handicapped adult son lived in the house, there was just enough room. The son needs to use a walker, sometimes a wheelchair, and sleeps in a hospital type bed. He had a hard time maneuvering about the house when there weren't toys on the floor and children running about. Now it is a daily challenge to keep him from tripping and falling. The mother said he never complains but she can see the strain has affected him also.

The daughter has a low paying job, but still hopes to move out with her children when she receives her subsidized housing voucher or gets a better job. She has a struggle ahead of her since her husband has fled the state and has been unable to be found for child support. She continues to look for a better job but they are hard to come by. She knows that her three young children are a lot for her parents to care for right now, yet she still needs their help. Her work hours are sometimes long. She comes home exhausted to help her mother care for her father and handicapped brother, besides caring for her own children.

We went over their budget. They were still making payments on their very small, older home. They were behind in their payments. The inefficient furnace, insulation, and water heater caused their utility bills to be much more expensive than they could afford. The utility bills were delinquent as well. They were sharing one older car. The daughter used it every day to go to work. She had sold her car to pay for rent and food before she moved in with her parents. Their food situation was not good either. They were eating many cheap packaged foods. They could never get to the food pantry due to their only being one car and their daughter working when the food pantry is open.

The mother who wrote the letter was very afraid of the utilities being shut off. She feared for her grandchildren, handicapped son, and convalescing husband living in a cold, dark house. The food shortage is due to the mortgage payments they are trying to keep up with. This has caused her and her husband great heartache. The poor husband was worrying himself to the point of another stroke.

The last thing we need in this economy is another foreclosure resulting in homelessness. We were able to replace the older furnace quite economically. We also had insulation blown into their attic at no charge. This has already had a noticeable effect on their utility bill. We also brought their utilities up to date. We pointed out the programs that may be available to them that they were not utilizing. This has relieved some of the strain on the senior parents. They now have a home visit nurse come in several days a week to do physical therapy with both the father and the handicapped son. The daughter is looking into putting the two youngest children in daycare a few days a week to give her mother more time to care for her husband and handicapped son. We also gave them a good used car. Please consider donating your trade in vehicles. The reward you will receive from providing a family struggling in the pains of poverty with a means of transportation, will far outweigh the trade in value. They are all looking forward to the opening of our new W.C. Food Pantry/Family Resource Center. The daughter will be able to obtain nutritious food for their family when she is off work. These improvements will help not only their finances but their mental and physical well being as well.

The mother wrote us a thank you letter. Please see Section One, page two. Together we put the broken pieces of their lives back together. I again want to thank all of you for Caring and Sharing as we continue to do our part of helping our fellow American's in need.

We are at the end of our matching grant offered by the Drescher Family Charitable Foundation. Soon we will be able to share with all of you how successful the matching grant was. 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:** Drescher Family Charitable Foundation, The Rhoades Foundation, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Wells Manufacturing Co., Bill Rorig, Paper Dolls, Dennis & Christine Haak, Golden State Foods Foundation, Shawn & Donna McLafferty, Evelyn Pearson, Kim Olsen, Martin O'Brien, Marvin Hersko, Ellen Flanagan, Lu Schinke, Stanley Blum, Larry & Verna Magee, 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, Prairie Tree Landscaping Center, Budget Blinds, 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](http://www.goodsearch.com) and help to raise funds for The Time Is Now to Help. Just make [www.goodsearch.com](http://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](http://www.timeisnowtohelp.org)

