

Dear W.C.,

03/15/10

I am currently caring for my sister's three children after she was involved in a serious auto accident. She was hit by an uninsured driver and suffered many injuries that she will have a very long recuperation from. She is a single mother and was struggling to make ends meet before this happened. I also am a single mom and have two children of my own so this has really put a large strain on my finances as well. I have been unable to purchase diapers for my sister's infant. I am struggling to put food on the table for the children, ages three thru nine. My car is also in very bad shape and I need it to get to my job and also to visit my sister with the children at the hospital. It has been so hard to keep up with everything. You are my last hope.

Dear Readers,

This was a very difficult situation. The sister is caring for five children on her own, worrying about her finances, working at her job, and visiting her sister in the hospital in Milwaukee. The woman spoke openly with me when I visited at her apartment. She told me about the accident her sister was in. Her sister was struck by an uninsured driver, had no health insurance of her own, and had nearly died. She was in the hospital for a very long time and had months of rehabilitation yet ahead of her. Their elderly mother cares for the children while she works several days a week to try and pay the bills. She told me how she had become a single mother after years of abuse at the hands of her alcoholic ex-husband.

She was having a hard time keeping up with things before her sister was injured. Now it is impossible with all the extra expense involved with caring for her nieces and nephew. She will be caring for them for a long time. The two sisters are very close and she loves the children as her own.

I was introduced to all the children. They were very polite. I asked them about school and the older children shared with me how much they enjoyed school. Then the youngest school age child said, "I feel better when I go to school." I could see the aunt had tears in her eyes. I asked him why he felt better at school and he answered, "Because at school they feed us." After some more conversation with the children the aunt/mother asked all of them to go play while we talked. I asked if I could look around her kitchen. I immediately noticed there was very little food. She explained preventing them from becoming homeless was her number one priority so rent had to come before food.

Once again I find the hunger in our great country of over 50 million Americans, a big fault of the government. I asked the mother/aunt to go food shopping with me and bring the kids. She looked shocked and surprised. When I asked her again she began to cry. She went to get the children ready and when I saw the five children waiting by the door to go I noticed their feet.

They all had on very old worn shoes. The mother/aunt noticed what I was looking at and said, "I'm sorry. The kids keep asking for new shoes but I cannot afford them." I thought of when I was young and had only one pair of shoes with holes in them.

When everyone was loaded in the car I told them we had one stop to make before food shopping. That stop was to get new shoes for everyone. The previously subdued sad children turned into children filled with excitement. They were even happier when we brought home several bags of healthy food. They thanked me over and over for their shoes and food. What lovely appreciative children they are. We need to protect and love our gifts from God, all of our children.

When we returned we went over her expenses/budget. I offered her some advice for some other aid she could apply for. She did not know about several programs she could receive some help from. This will help her in the future to keep the children fed. We brought their rent up to date and paid a month ahead to give her a head start on her budget. We also paid their utilities that were overdue. We looked at her old car and I could easily see there were several repairs needed. These repairs were completed for her and she can now drive safely. Once again, together, we helped our fellow creations, giving them help and hope. Thank you for your Caring and Sharing hearts to bring this mother and children out of poverty and despair. God Bless you.

Thanks to all of you we have successfully reached our goal of matching our Summertime Foundation Matching Grant. Together we have eased the daily struggle in poverty for many with your generous contributions. Thank you for Caring and Sharing.

*Health & Happiness, God Bless Everyone, 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.

**Upcoming Event:** The Lake Geneva Police Department and Lake Geneva Fire Department are holding a fund raiser for The Time Is Now to Help on Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 3 p.m. located at the Lake Geneva Fire Department, 730 Marshall Street, Lake Geneva. We will be filling a fire boot with change to benefit our fellow American's that have fallen on hard times. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated. Remember it only takes 19 cents to purchase a pound of food. I will be there to greet one and all. Bring the children, friends, and neighbors. Together, I know we can fill more than one boot. We need to Care and Share to help ease the pains of poverty for our fellow creations. Please help. God Bless you. See you there.

**A Very Special Thank You:** Summertime Foundation, Marshall and Abbe Bauer, Susan & Michael Borden, Paper Dolls, Martin O'Brien, Colleene Morrell, Warren and Sharon Hatch, George and Penelope Slouka, Arlene Clausen, Robert Dooley, Paul Lewis, Stanley Blum, Richard & Rose Honeyager, Steve and Betty Thornton, Kerry Dettmann, John Race, Donald & Gladys Keith, Rudolph and Donna Zwolfer, Michael Glass, Margarie Egger, W.C. Family Resource Center/Food Pantry volunteers, 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.

**We Desperately Need Cars:** Please donate a used car to help our fellow American's get to work and other daily necessities.

**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.

Please visit: [www.timeisnowtohelp.org](http://www.timeisnowtohelp.org)