

Dear W.C.,

5/18/09

We were once a happy, productive family. My husband had a good job and I had my own home based business. We have two children, one with special needs, so it was my decision to work out of our home so I could care for our children. Last year my husband was let go from his job. The business he worked for was going under and he lost all his benefits. We were left without health insurance. We couldn't pay for Cobra insurance much less our house payments. My home based business had already declined to almost nothing. We have tried to apply for housing assistance but cannot qualify as long as we still own our home. I was told there is about a 27 month waiting list for housing assistance anyway. My husband and I have been applying for jobs everywhere. We are both highly educated individuals with excellent resumes but it doesn't seem to matter. There are about 200 people ahead of us for each job. We are in the process of foreclosure. I have sold everything I could to keep food on the table and pay for my son's special medical needs. We are living on borrowed time in our empty house until we have to move out. I am afraid to even think we may end up sleeping in our remaining car. All we have left is our beds and some clothing. I sold everything else we owned, including our other car, for much less than it was worth. I know you have probably heard what seems to be the same story a lot lately. We are the face of the new poverty stricken in America. Please help us.

Dear Readers,

The writer of this letter is correct. I am hearing nearly the same story over and over lately. The economic climate has forced many formerly prosperous families into becoming homeless and dependent on assistance. The American dream of owning your own home, driving a nice car, eating good food, seems to have become a thing of the past. If our government leaders cannot find a way to improve our economy to the point that the average American can stay in business, keep a job, feed their family, are they going to be able to support the amount of people applying for welfare? For the most part we are a nation willing to work, and work hard. We cannot work if there are no jobs available to us.

This family could not receive housing assistance. The Time Is Now to Help stepped in just in time to help them pay first month rent and security deposit on a small apartment. I could not see their two beautiful children, especially the youngest that has special needs, living in a car. How do you even begin to tell your children you have to live in a car? The Time Is Now to Help provided them with food, gas vouchers, gift certificates for daily necessities, and directed them where to obtain clothing for the growing children. Her husband has taken a job much below his abilities, without benefits, with a temp agency. It is not permanent but helps to pay the bills for now. They are just hoping housing assistance becomes available to them

some time in the future since it will still be a struggle for them to survive on the much reduced income.

Everywhere you look in our world humanity seems to be struggling to survive. Every country, state, county, city, and town is seeing the affects of poverty and joblessness. We all need to do what we can to improve the lives of those struggling around us. God Bless the many individuals working to change government policies, fighting against oppression, and disease. Our world and country is in turmoil. Half of all children in the world live in poverty. Approximately 25,000 children die each day in the world due to poverty. Approximately \$780 billion dollars is spent each year worldwide on military spending, yet only \$13 billion dollars is spent on basic health and nutrition. These facts can be overwhelming and depressing. The greed and corruption of the world government leaders has led many into the anguish and pain of poverty. We should all be aware of the blessings around us, especially the blessing of being able to help the many in need to reduce those overwhelming statistics in our local communities. We are doing God's work. I thank you for your continued support and faith in the good works The Time Is Now to Help achieves. My dear friends, together we will continue to help our fellow creations. God Bless 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:** Michael & Sue Borden, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Peck and Weis, Tony Hanley, William & Jean Isaacson, Paper Dolls, Martin O'Brien, Jim & Karen Goodrick, Albert & Ellen Burnell, Dawn Jorgensen Heiser, Beuford & Ruth Breidenstein, Tom & Joyce Roche, Drescher Family Charitable Foundation, W.C. Family Resource Center/Food Pantry volunteers, Bill & Lois McEssy, John & Marlys Schuerman in honor of Robert Zielinski'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.

**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 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](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)