

## Our 7<sup>th</sup> Year of Reporting Caring and Sharing

5/17/10

Today we share our 362<sup>nd</sup> column in the Lake Geneva Regional News. For seven years we have been sharing with you what The Time Is Now to Help actually does on a daily basis. We help many families, senior citizens, children, and the handicapped. We often work holidays, evenings, and weekends to bring assistance to those reaching out to us in their desperation. We could not accomplish the many deliveries of food, rental/shelter assistance, car repairs, car donations, budget counseling, utility assistance, etc. without the support we receive from you. You are with us every step of the way from opening the envelope requesting help, to knocking on the door, to holding hands and wiping tears as we give loving support and guidance. I just can't say it enough times, "We could not do this without you!" Thanks to all of your caring and sharing we have helped over 5,174 fellow creations in the past seven years. Together we will continue to help our fellow American's.

Dear W.C.,

I am a regular visitor of my local Food Pantry. I find they treat me with respect and most times I receive enough food to feed my two children. I am a single mom that has been trying to find a full time job for the last six months. I have a part time job that only pays minimum wage. There just does not seem to be many opportunities for a woman in my position.

The reason I am writing is I was very disturbed when my children asked if we would be eating the geese in the park. My children were crying because they had heard from other children at school that the geese in the park in Delavan were going to be shot, and the meat given to the food pantries. The children know I go to the food pantry when we run low on food so they were very upset to think they were going to be eating the geese they happily see in the park. First I object for the obvious reason that I do not want to eat or serve goose meat to my children that was slaughtered in the park. Why do we think all life is expendable if it is justified somehow? Everyone I spoke to at school said they wouldn't eat the meat anyway. I think it is a terrible idea they are trying to make look acceptable by turning it into a "charitable donation". I know from reading your column regularly that you often refer to people you help as "fellow creations". I also can tell that you have respect for all of God's "fellow creations", not just the human ones. I just wanted to let you know how this "fellow creation" that is living on a bare minimum of income, feels about being fed slaughtered castoff meat from a heartless killing of baby and parent geese. I have never seen Canadian Geese meat at the grocery store. If everyone I talk to is upset about this and the children are disturbed over killing the geese, and their babies, why are we doing this slaughter?

Disturbed and Disheartened "Fellow Creation"

Dear Readers,

I actually had this impending goose killing brought to my attention by many others, and by a dear friend and lover of all creation, Fellow Mortals founder Yvonne Wallace Blane. She called me quite disturbed by what she had read in the newspaper. She said they were planning on bringing the ground up goose meat to our food pantry, W.C. Family Resource Center, and wanted to know if we would be accepting it. I had to tell her we would not be accepting this meat. We do our best to give our recipients only food we would want to eat ourselves. Yvonne said, "The idea of rounding up flightless goslings, and family groups of geese, during their annual molt, and shooting them in the park is not the humane solution to a goose problem in the park." There are other options that Yvonne has suggested that should be tried to satisfy all of God's fellow creations.

The writer of this letter does bring up a good point. Should we expect our neighbors in need to eat what most of us would not eat ourselves? Does that somehow justify the killing of a "fellow creation" some may deem a nuisance? I have compassion for all of God's creation so I do not feel it is an acceptable solution to the problem. I do not think most people reading this column would be able to watch the killing of goslings and flightless adult geese.

I contacted this single mother to speak to her. She was happy I had read her letter and that over 60 others had showed concern as well. She admitted she was struggling with raising two children but felt there were others that probably needed help more than they did. When I asked her some more questions about her financial position she admitted she was behind on her rent and utilities. She only had a part time job that did not cover all their expenses. The children thought the main reason I was there was to talk about the geese, not the possibility of their family becoming homeless. The children were very concerned over the killing of the geese. The youngest child started crying saying, "Please don't kill the mommy geese and their babies. I love them." I assured the children I was not going to kill the geese. The older child asked, "Is the reason they are killing the geese because there are so many poor people?" I assured the children it was not. I could not tell the children it was because of the goose poop in the park and had nothing to do with poverty.

After more conversation, budget review, and an excellent lead for a full time job, the mother finally agreed to some help with her rent and utilities. She insisted that was not the reason she had written the letter to The Time Is Now to Help. It truly was her concern over the geese and the possibility of them being distributed at the food pantries. I assured her I would look into this further and try to find a peaceful resolution for all involved.

Thank you and God Bless You. Together we can make a big difference helping our fellow creations of God.

*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.

**A Very Special Thank You:** Rotary Club of Lake Geneva, Badger FFA, Susan & Michael Borden, Paper Dolls, Dennis & Christine Haak, Lake Geneva Petco, Petco Foundation, Martin O'Brien, Dick & Jean Honeyager, Michael Glass, June Davidsen, Pam Maynard, Steve & Joanne Lockwood, Michol Ann Ford, James & Julie Hegemann, Leeann Marty, Sharon & Virgil Wuttke in honor of Carolyn Gramley & Tom Cox 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, William & Jean Isaacson, Mrs. C.E. Douglas, 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.

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