

Dear W.C.,

11/02/09

My husband and I are struggling to get by on social security. We are in our seventies and my husband is looking for work he can do. I am disabled. There are no jobs to be found for someone in our age group and ability level. I have several medical problems and they are not all covered by Medicare. We have not been able to pay our portion of the medical bills and keep up with our lot rent for our mobile home, utilities, food, etc. We have one run down old car to get us to and from our doctor appointments and groceries. I don't think it will make it through the winter. Our trailer we live in is very old and needs a few repairs but it will likely fall down around us before we can afford to do any repairs. Our only child was killed by a drunk driver years ago. We are so ashamed to ask for help. We finally decided to write this letter when we got a disconnection notice. We are sorry to be such a burden.

Dear Readers,

The senior woman that wrote this letter was being modest when she said her trailer needed a few repairs and her car was run down. They are both in terrible disrepair. When I went to knock on their door I noticed their front stoop was eroded and very dangerous. Their roof was in obvious need of repair, which was even more apparent when they invited me inside. There were several buckets and bowls in various places to catch the dripping water. It was very cold and damp inside the old trailer. The trailer had definitely out lived its life expectancy.

The couple was very pleased to see me. Her husband was propped up on pillows in a recliner chair, in obvious discomfort. He explained how he hurt his back several years ago but let the injury go because he could not afford to have it treated.

He did not want to jeopardize his job when he saw the recession getting worse and the company was starting to cut back where ever they could. They finally had to shut their doors and he was one of the last drivers to be laid off. He had worked for the same company for many years and he knew it was going to be hard to get another job at his age. He filled out many applications for jobs but never received a call back. He said everywhere he went there were many younger men struggling to find jobs, that had children and house payments, and he saw them all leaving with the same desperate, sad look on their faces. He was very sad about what has happened to our country and he feels the government has let us all down. He

believed hard work and social security would see him and his wife through retirement. He was wrong. The economy has broken many, leaving pain and sorrow.

We went over their outstanding bills. They had already applied for both housing and utility assistance, but were on a long waiting list. I suggested they look into moving into a low-income senior citizen apartment. They were hesitant at first but once I looked around their trailer and pointed out just the obvious repairs that were necessary to see them through the upcoming winter months, they agreed. They were severely behind in their utilities. The Time Is Now to Help paid their past due utilities and enough for the coming month. We paid their past due lot rent. We had a few repairs done to their car to make it safer to drive for now and they are on a list for our next available donated vehicle. I also noticed their bed mattress was in terrible condition. It sloped to one side and the frame was broken. I asked how they slept in that bed and they answered they didn't. The husband slept in the chair he was in propped up with pillows. His wife slept on the old couch next to him that did not look any more comfortable than the bed. When I offered a new bed set they were overjoyed. Due to their lack of finances they never thought they would be able to sleep next to each other again. The Time Is Now to Help provided them with a new mattress, box spring, and frame.

When I checked in on them again they were doing much better. They had moved into a small one bedroom apartment for seniors. They were much happier without the leaking roof, unsafe front stairs, broken windows, old heater, broken appliances, leaking plumbing, etc. It was easy for both of them to move about and care for. Even their health seemed to be improving from their much uplifted spirits and change of environment. They met their new neighbors and found many were in the same position as they were. When we were finally able to provide them with a reliable donated car they shared it with their new neighbors by providing several of them rides to the food pantry, clothing assistance, doctor's appointments, etc. The car helped more people than we had even hoped for. With the necessary changes they are able to live independently. They are very thankful to The Time Is Now to Help and all of you. Once again, together, your Caring and Sharing has made a big difference in helping our fellow creations.

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: Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust, Kikkoman Foods Foundation, Hemingway's Restaurant, East Troy Lioness Club, Paper Dolls, Floyd &

Lori Janny, Wayne & Roberta Collamore, Ralph & Elizabeth Bauman, Martin O'Brien, Larry & Deanna Wieland, W.C. Family Resource Center/Food Pantry volunteers, Michael & Sue Borden, Dick & Jean Honeyager, 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.

Please Volunteer: The W.C. Food Pantry is in need of volunteers. Please call (262)348-0600 and leave your name and phone number. We need your help.

Upcoming Event: Craft Fair Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009, to benefit The Time Is Now to Help. It will be held at the Comfort Suites in Lake Geneva from 12 noon – 5 p.m. For more information contact Debbie Wike (262)279-2269.

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 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.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org