

Dear W.C.,

11/23/09

Could you please help my Mother? She is sick and can't pay for food. She cries all the time about not being able to pay our bills. My grandma told me I should write you a letter to help my mother. We did not have any Christmas presents last year or even a Christmas dinner. My Mother says we will not be having Christmas this year too. I tell her I don't need any Christmas presents. I just want to see her smile again. I know she has been sick for a long time and I worry about her. There are so many days we go to sleep hungry and cold. My mom says she turns the heat down low because she hasn't been able to pay our heat bill for a long time. Could you please help me and my Mother?

Dear Reader,

I was at a charity event and a little girl approached me with her Grandmother. She asked me if I was W.C. and I replied, "Yes." She asked me if I would read her letter and again I told her yes. She was a soft spoken, polite child. I read her request for assistance. I was very happy she had the courage to give me the letter in person. The grandmother said she is extremely worried about their wellbeing. She knows her daughter is going through chemotherapy and unable to keep up with her bills, food, and everyday necessities. The granddaughter is doing most of the household chores and very mature for her age. She washes the clothes down the hall in the apartment laundry room. She warms cans of soup for her mom when they have some to eat. She does all the dishes.

The Grandmother is unable to help due to her own problems caring for her husband with Alzheimer's disease. He does not like change of any kind so she cares for him herself at home. She says they have very little money themselves and are barely getting by. The grandmother had a friend watch her husband for one afternoon so she could check on her sick daughter. The daughter's cell phone was disconnected and she was unable to reach her for days. She was so worried about what she would find when she arrived, and realized it was just as bad as she had imagined. Her daughter was a single mother struggling to raise a daughter on her own, while going through chemotherapy.

The grandmother had read about The Time Is Now to Help in an old newspaper her daughter had at her apartment. She suggested she write to us. Her daughter was too sick and weak to think clearly enough to write a letter. The granddaughter offered to write the letter if her grandmother helped her.

After I spoke with both the granddaughter and grandmother I asked to speak with the mother. She was very weak. The mother was surprised I was there to help.

After we spoke for awhile she told me about the conditions they were living in. I looked around the kitchen cupboards, they had very little food, and their refrigerator was broke. I asked to see the utility bills. The daughter showed them to me, knowing where the bills were kept. The gas and electric bills were extremely over due. Both bills showed payments in small amounts of \$7, \$12, and \$8. With a very weak voice the mother said, "I'm so ashamed but that is all I had." She started to cry and the young daughter looked at her mother, hugged her and also started to cry.

This is how many of our fellow Americans are living behind closed doors. The recession has created waiting lists for energy assistance and housing assistance that go out for years. It is up to us to help our fellow creations who are struggling through the pain of poverty.

The mother and daughter were in desperate need of daily necessities. After consoling them I went right to work. Their food situation was very distressing. After asking a few questions about food, I told them I would be right back. When I arrived back in a short while, I came with warm food. I was so happy to see them eating. I called one of our volunteers immediately to pick up a list of groceries for them. They delivered them before I even left. You would have thought it was Christmas morning for the daughter. She had not seen grocery bags with food in them for so long. I hid my own tears seeing this, thanking God for bringing them to our attention. I took their bills with a promise to pay them and some into the future.

I had a refrigerator delivered by two volunteers the next day.

When I visited again the mother was still weak but her spirits were high. She could not believe that we, *The Time is Now to Help*, came together and really helped her and her little girl. This time she cried thankful, happy tears. I could feel her relief of the stress of worrying about food, heat, and electric for her little girl. Now she could put all her energy into restoring her health.

I told her what a wonderful mother and daughter she has to be so full of love and concern for her wellbeing. She began to cry when she spoke about her daughter. She said she felt like such a terrible mother being unable to care for her daughter properly. I reassured her that it was not her fault. She was dealing with a life threatening illness. I reassured her that her daughter was strong, capable and responsible. She was doing an excellent job at parenting and it showed in the loving care her daughter was showing her now.

God Bless all of you for your kind words, and support to *The Time Is Now to Help*. I alone cannot meet all the desperate requests for help. Together we make a big difference helping our fellow creations. I thank all of you for your kindness in Caring & Sharing. **Please take advantage of the MLH \$25,000 Matching Grant.** Every dollar you donate will be matched

by another until December 17, 2009. Please help our fellow American's who have fallen on hard times. 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.

Please say a prayer for my three year old granddaughter.

A Very Special Thank You: Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust, Paper Dolls, Martin O'Brien, Flitcroft Septic Systems, Debbie Wikes & the craft fair ladies, Albert & Ellen Burnell, Mary Villanueva, Joseph & Maureen Shaughnessy, William & Jean Isaacson, Snug Harbor, Ron & Desiree Lipowski, Immanuel United Church of Christ, Shirley Gifford Abell, Michael Chier, Peter & Debbie Kroening, Peggy Cardiff, Dona Palmer, Marvin & Audrey Hersko, James & Karen Goodrick, 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.

Memorials: William & Lorene Perkins in memory of Carl Mickelsen.

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.

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