

Dear W.C.,

11/30/09

My family is living in a motel. It is a very scary place for us. There are people using drugs and other terrible things going on at all hours. I lost my job last summer and eventually we were evicted when I could no longer pay the rent. I recently got a part time job that pays our motel bill but nothing else. Most nights we have hardly any food. We don't have a kitchen to cook in. Thank God my kids get free breakfast and lunch at school. My ex-husband lives out of state. He is unable to pay child support because he is out of work at this time too.

Everyone I know is having such a hard time now. There is no one else I can ask for help. My car needs a repair I can't afford to fix but if I don't have my car how can I go to work? My main concern is getting my children out of this unhealthy environment and into a safe place to live. Even though the kids are old enough to be left alone I am afraid to leave them alone at the motel while I am at work. Most nights I do not sleep with all the noise going on outside our room and the stress of trying to raise my children right in a world that is such a mess right now.

Dear Readers,

There are many families living in unsafe and unhealthy environments at this time. Most are happy to just have a roof over their head. This family had actually lived out of their car for a week before moving into the motel. Every penny of the mother's income was being used to pay for their motel room. They did not even have money for the most basic items of food and toiletries. The children wore the same clothes over and over until the mother could hand wash them in the sink and hang them to dry in their tiny bathroom. She could not afford to go to a Laundromat or buy detergent. Their car was in need of a major repair and the gas tank was on empty. As we sat in her room and talked I could hear the loud music and shouting coming from the room next door. The mother said it was like that at all hours. She was scared to death each time she left her children there alone while she worked. She was happy to get at least a part time job but she was not happy about her schedule and the hours she was required to work. Her children were young teens and very responsible, but it was the surroundings that had her worried. They were not allowed to leave the room when she was not there with them. It was such a burden for her, to worry endlessly about her children's safety living among all the drug addicts and alcoholics.

I set up the mother's car repairs. She would be left without a car for the afternoon. One of our volunteers went with to drop it off. We also filled her gas tank for her. I left her with several gift cards to purchase some nonperishable food, necessary toiletries, laundry detergent, and some money to wash their clothing at the Laundromat down the street. I then networked with a clean, safe motel and arranged a room for them to stay in for a few weeks. The mother was so happy and relieved she burst into tears.

After she moved into the safer accommodations we arranged to talk some more. She shared with me the story I have heard so often lately, the loss of her job she held for years, her inability to pay their rent or utilities, and their subsequent eviction. She tearfully told me how ashamed she was to actually live out of her car for awhile last summer. She was so afraid someone would find out and take her children away. They used the public restrooms to clean up. They found food when they could. She said she was amazed at what people threw out in the garbage, so much waste of perfectly good food. She said there was no limit to her humiliation. They did what they had to survive. She persisted with her search for a job and was able to get the part time job she held now. It paid enough after her first check to get a weekly motel room. At least she had a place for her children to sleep, shower, and do their homework. They went to the food pantry but without a refrigerator or cooking facilities they could only take the nonperishable items.

The mother's goal was to get a full time job and find an inexpensive small apartment. She applied for housing and utility assistance but there is a very long waiting list. After her two weeks were up at the motel I checked in with her to see her progress. She was happy to announce she had gotten a second part time job and that, along with our assistance in finding a suitable rental, enabled this family to finally move out of the motel. This would really help them with food preparation and a safe home setting for the children. We supplied them with new beds, bedding, towels, and household necessities. She said they could never have made it without The Time Is Now to Help. Thank you to all of you for your Caring and Sharing so we were able to offer this struggling family a lifeline of hope.

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, GoodSearch, Martin O'Brien, Kathryn Frederick, Warren & Donna Kohnke, Women

of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ed & Lara Kennedy, Melody Fehling, Carol Kopp, Debra Guzman, Kim Olsen, David & Penny Froh, Charles Moelter, Gerald & Marilyn Wilkin, John & Sally Dicmas, Phyllis Patek, Harvey & Jane Peck, Rudolph & Donna Zwolfer, Lee Zuzanek, Donna Harding, Donald & Gail Holden, Steve & Betty Thornton, 4 Acres Bridge Club, Lu Schinke, Florence Merkin, Bonita Breit, Frank Huml, Jr., Waukegan Building, Helen Miller, Lynn Jeka, 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: Claudia Siesennop in memory of Myrtle Carlsen.

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