

Dear W.C.,

10/12/09

You are my last chance. I have applied for utility assistance but there is none left. I live with my grandson. My husband passed away a year ago. We were separated but not legally divorced yet when he died. He left me with many unpaid bills that were in my name also. I did not know he was using my name still. I work full time but my pay has been cut so I do not get paid enough to pay the utilities, rent, and the other bills I was left with. It is so overwhelming. My daughter left her son with me when he was just an infant. He is now 8 years old and I have custody of him. I feel like a failure when our gas is shut off. I couldn't even buy him the school supplies he needs, or a winter coat. I have been only able to use a microwave to heat our food and to warm water to wash with. I am afraid I will be evicted if my landlord finds out we are living here with the gas shut off. I also need several repairs on my very old car. Please help us!

Dear Readers,

When I read this letter I already had a long list of people in line ahead of her. I try to answer my letters in the order received but severity of need does apply. Unfortunately the severity of need has been much greater lately and there have been many phone calls and visits. I felt the need for assistance with this grandmother and grandson was great. I set up a time to meet, as soon as I could. I arrived at her apartment during her lunch break from work. We did not have long to talk so we got right to business. She showed me pictures of her grandson and explained why she had custody. Her daughter had gotten pregnant at a young age but did not care to raise the child herself. She moved to another state when her son was one. She signed custody over to her mother because she was going to marry a different man than the father of the child, and he wanted nothing to do with her child. She has not come home since and does not even bother to call. The grandmother does not understand how her daughter could act so heartless but blames it on the treatment she received from her father when she was younger. She said he was an abusive man and it had taken her years to get away from him herself. She finally had the strength to get away from him when her grandson became her responsibility. She only wishes she had gotten away from him sooner and had actually legally divorced him.

Her grandson obviously is her pride and joy. She showed me things he had made at school. She showed me her many bills and we sorted through them by importance. The only ones she truly needed to pay were her utilities and rent. She then told me about her car and we went outside to take a look. It was very old and had bald tires. It was really beyond repair. This is when she broke into tears, trying to cover her face in embarrassment. Through her tears she said how ashamed she felt to be so poor. That is why she wanted to meet while the grandson was at school. I consoled her by telling her we were there to help. I reassured her that The Time Is Now to Help would not let her and her grandson be evicted. I told her how she and

her grandchild would have hot water to bath in. I told her that she would feel pride again. She felt relieved knowing her fellow American's were there to help. She expressed overwhelming thankfulness through her tears to The Time Is Now and everyone who helps us.

At this point she was due back at work and we planned to talk again later that evening over the phone. I called her at the specified time and she continued to share her story with me. She had lived a life of struggle and abuse. Her husband had drank and gambled. They never had much money and what little she earned he often took to support his lifestyle.

She knows what a happy, loving relationship is like with her grandson. When he was born she vowed to not relive the past and stood up to her husband for the final time. He told her he didn't want her anymore anyway and immediately moved out.

The Time Is Now to Help paid her past due gas bill and had her service restored. They can again have hot water for bathing and use their stove top and oven. They will also have gas for their heat. We also brought her electric up to date. Her bill had not been too high in the summer because she never used her air-conditioning and did not turn on any unnecessary lights. Her rent is up to date and reduced into the future. This will really help them to get back on their feet.

I spoke to her employer. His business was not as bad as he told her it was. He just wanted to save more money during the recession. I told him how hard the grandmother and grandchild were struggling. He immediately felt ashamed about the extra hundred dollars in savings each week. That amount made a world of difference for the grandmother and child. The employer put her back to full pay. God bless him for understanding the plight of our fellow American's.

We had recently received a donated car that needed only a few minor repairs. The tires were in good shape and it was very reliable. I was happy to pass the car on to this struggling grandmother after Butch's Automotive completed the repairs. She was so happy to have a reliable, safe car to drive her grandson in and did not have to worry if she would make it to work or not.

Now she truly feels she has a fresh start. Her worries are relieved and she feels now she will be able to keep up with her bills. She was able to stay in her apartment and not become another homeless statistic with her grandson. Thanks to your Caring and Sharing we gave the grandmother and young grandson hope, knowing there are good people who really do care.

Health & Happiness, God Bless Everyone, W.C.

Upcoming Event: 1st annual Good Neighbors Benefit fundraiser for W.C. Food Pantry on Saturday, October 24, 2009 held at Hemingway's Restaurant & Bar. Doors open at 4 p.m. Buffet dinner starts at 5:30. Live music begins at 6 p.m. There will be food, raffles, and prizes. Bring either a \$5 donation or a non-perishable food item or toiletry to help the many in need in our area. For more information call (262)348-1200 or visit www.hemingwaysportofcall.com.

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: Johnson Bank, Johnson Insurance, Kikkoman Foods Foundation, Petco Foundation, Lake Geneva Petco, Stackpool Chiropractic, "Our Place" Genoa City, Paper Dolls, Dennis & Christine Haak, Martin O'Brien, James & Marilyn Dyer, John & Kristi Hugunin, Frank & Diane Caldario, Albert & Ellen Burnell, William & Jean Isaacson, B.& L. Williams, Tom & Joyce Roche, Susan Russella, 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.

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.

Endowments/Helping Others through Your Will: 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.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org