

Dear W.C.,

8/31/09

I am a middle aged woman living on disability. I have a condition that has me living in constant pain. There is no cure for my condition, only medications to try and help me live more comfortably. Those medications also make me unable to drive or hold down any kind of job. I try not to take them but I cannot tolerate the pain for long.

I have not been able to keep up with my rent and utilities. I was always able to care for myself so it is very hard for me to ask for help. I have a wonderful sister that helps me when she can. She can't help financially but she brings me meals a few days a week, picks up my prescriptions, and helps me with my personal care when she can. She has her own struggling family with young children to worry about and I feel guilty asking her for anything more than she offers.

I used to have a job, a fiancé, and a busy social life. My friends and fiancé were all overwhelmed by my condition. I sometimes cry out in pain and they didn't know what to do to help me. I had to give up my job when the pain had me doubled over in the middle of my office.

I know you have so many other requests for help right now but I am really in need of your assistance. I have never felt so scared and desperate.

Living in Pain

Dear Readers,

We need to thank God every day for our health. I read letters daily coming from people that are struggling with handicaps, illnesses, mental disabilities, etc. The amount of pain and suffering that some people endure on a daily basis astounds me. This woman was dealing with an overwhelming amount of pain due to an autoimmune disease. Her muscles have now atrophied and there isn't much chance for a cure. She is learning to live each day as it comes and to stop dreaming about what her life used to be like. Her days now center on just getting her body moving and keeping her faith. She says she prays for a cure but knows she has to make the best of what she has left of her mobility.

We sat and talked for some time until I could see she was in a great amount of pain and needed rest. She said her medications make her very tired and she sleeps off and on throughout the day and night. She never sleeps for a long stretch as the pain wakes her up every hour or so. She said she has tried numerous different therapies. I could see her apartment was very bare and her clothing was too large for her emaciated frame. She said she has lost a lot of weight due to her appetite not being that good and trying to stretch her meals.

I again prayed to God for her health as I left her asleep in her recliner. I promised to return the next day to go over her bills.

The next day I called to be sure she was strong enough for another visit and she said she was waiting for me to come by. This time we immediately went over her outstanding bills and financial situation. She needed help with her rent and utilities first and foremost. I also gave her vouchers for some household necessities, food, and clothing that her sister could pick up for her. Her sister arrived and greeted me with a big hug. She was wonderful with her sister, lovingly caring for her. She was positive in her words and actions. I could feel the whole mood lighten when her presence was in the small apartment. The woman living in pain told me her sister was the only thing giving her the strength to face another day. I could see and feel the healing energy she gave to her. We talked about what assistance she needed most. The sister said she could cook more food for her but couldn't stretch her tight budget anymore. I provided her with information on the W.C. Food Pantry and with some food vouchers for immediate help. We brought her rent and utilities up to date and paid a little into the future.

When I first met this woman she was frightened, fearful, distraught, and full of pain. She constantly had thoughts of her physical pain, filled with the stress of poverty, and felt like a burden on her sister who was already struggling herself with the recession.

I assured her we were there to help. We were there to prevent her number one fear, homelessness. She could not believe people she did not even know were helping her, as she so sadly put it, "A struggling insignificant being." I had to rebuild her belief, telling her she was a fellow creation we did care about. I reminded her of her sister's love for her, and how if the roles were reversed she would be doing the same. I told her ours, and her sister's reward would be her becoming positive, and a smile. We had an extensive conversation about the power of her positive thoughts on her health and wellbeing. We discussed how The Time Is Now to Helps assistance in relieving her financial despair could help to ease some of her physical stress.

The last time I saw her she told me, "I smother my pain with good thoughts, my love for my sister, my thankfulness to everyone from The Time Is Now to Help, and especially my faith in God to see me through all things. I now have more time each day where I am living without pain." All this was expressed with a positive face full of thankfulness, and even a smile, this time without the obvious pain I saw on her face at our first meeting. Thank you for your Caring & Sharing. Together we made a big difference in this woman's life.

I feel I learn something new every day from the many people we assist. I learned from this woman that our faith and strength are far stronger than we know. I learned to value every day we spend healthy and to always be appreciative of that gift from God. I share this with you in

hopes that you can appreciate the gifts that God has given you and yours, whatever they may be.

Thanks to your Caring and Sharing we have almost met our goal of \$30,000 in the Richard Driehaus Matching Grant. Please take advantage of Richard Driehaus' Matching Grant. There are many American's desperately in need of our help to ease their pain and suffering of poverty. Every dollar you donate will be matched by Richard, doubling your donation. At this time we have many desperate requests for assistance. Please, Please Help.

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.

A Very Special Thank You: Paul Ziegler/Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Dan & Maureen Winkler, Martin O'Brien, Paper Dolls, Dennis & Christine Haak, Allan & Ghia Ackerman, Roland & Diane Schroeder, C. & L. Williams, Sally Harper, Gerard & Barbara Makovec, Margarie Egger, John & Kristi Hugunin, Elizabeth Cox, Susan Boring, Charles & Barbara Taylor, Lee & Barbara Zuzanek, Thomas & Barbara Searles, Congratulations to Sam & Irene LaBonne from Les & Pauline Malsch, Drescher Family Charitable Foundation, 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.

Thank You to the following Businesses that display our Donation Boxes: First Banking Center, M&I Bank, Lake Geneva Regional News, Braden Dental Center, Geneva St. Financial Group, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Claws, Verlo, Cornerstone Shoppe, Geneva Gifts, Lake Geneva Animal Hospital, The Cove, Lake Geneva Massage, Signature Signs, Skips Ala Mode, Accelerated Auto, Cornerstone Store, Lakeside Deli, Comfort Suites, Piggly Wiggly, Lake Geneva Antiques Mall, Geneva Lakes Ford, Rita's Salon, Lake Geneva Country Meats, Harvard Ford, Red Rooster, True Value Elkhorn, Clean Machine, Millie's, Hogans Goat, Delavan Lanes, Snug Harbor, Scene II, Remember When, Memories of the Heart, Cobblestone Peddler, & Bark Market. Anyone who would like a Time Is Now donation box in your business, please call (262)249-7000.

Memorials: Patricia Sherman in memory of Ben Logterman. Terrence & Trudy Harrison in memory of Cheryl Ponsonby.

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