

Dear W.C.,

9/14/09

I moved into the area from out of state two years ago. I am a single mother that has worked hard my whole life. I worked right up to the day my daughter was born to keep food on the table. I had a very good job and was supporting my whole family when my husband lost his job. He had been drinking on the job and after he was fired no one wanted to hire him. He became bitter and abusive. We divorced because of his constant verbal and physical abuse. I receive no child support since he has still not gotten a job. When my company offered to transfer me to one of their offices out of state, I jumped at the chance to get away. I moved into an apartment sight unseen. I had talked to the landlord over the phone and everything was supposed to be ready for my arrival. Everything has gone downhill since then. The apartment was never cleaned and I walked into a filthy, smelly, disgusting apartment. The carpets had cat urine everywhere and there were fleas. The refrigerator does not keep our food cold and the air-conditioner does not work. I have tried unsuccessfully to receive back my security deposit to cover the cleaning and repairs. I had to do everything myself to make the place habitable for my young daughter. I patched holes in the wall myself and rented a carpet cleaner. I have asked my landlord to repair the appliances but he never listens. Then after several months the company I work for closed its doors unexpectedly. Just like that I was out of a job with no income. I have many skills and have applied for jobs endlessly but no one is hiring. I am going to take a job next week at a fast food restaurant just to pay for some food. I am behind in my rent now and utilities. I have tried to get out of my lease due to the way things started but my landlord will not let me out of it. I tried to get him to apply the funds I used, to make the repairs he was supposed to complete, towards my rent but he is unyielding. I am unable to make several repairs that are desperately needed on my car. I took my daughter out of daycare because I can no longer pay for it. I have no family or friends in the area to turn to for help. The only comfort I have is the love from my daughter. I feel so much like I have let her down. How did my life become such a mess?

Broken Hearted Mother

Dear Readers,

I called this mother just before her cell phone was due to be disconnected. She said she could not speak because she did not have any minutes on her plan so instead asked me to visit. I agreed to meet. When I arrived I could see the apartment building was run down and uncared for. The lawn was weedy and overgrown. The paint was peeling and the hall carpets were very stained. I was greeted at the door by a very tired looking woman. She invited me in. I immediately could see the difference between her apartment and the rest of the building. It was not fancy by any means but was very clean and well kept. The walls had been painted

and everything smelled fresh. She even had a small bouquet of wild flowers on the table she told me she and her daughter had picked from the fields behind the apartment building. I told her how pretty they were and how nice her apartment looked. She thanked me but quickly apologized for the rest of the building as if it were her fault. She told me how embarrassed she was to even call the building her home. She said she had several neighbors that were noisy and rude, playing loud music at all hours, and trying to intimidate or scare her in the halls. She really needed to get out of that environment but with no job or security deposit she was trapped.

We talked about where she had been looking for work and other possible prospects. She spoke about her ex-husband. He does not ever attempt to see his daughter and she is relieved for that. He also does not contribute anything to her upbringing and that is a large burden for an unemployed single mom. We spoke about her landlord and I offered to speak to him on her behalf. I immediately stepped outside to call him since I did not want her young daughter to hear. She had many bad memories of her parent's arguments and physical fights.

When the landlord answered the phone I asked him if he could meet me at the mother's apartment. He had a very arrogant attitude but when I threatened him with legal action he decided to stop by to talk. When the landlord arrived he was dirty and unkempt. I asked him to come with me for a tour of his building. I pointed out the many broken, damaged, and filthy areas. I asked him if this was noted on the woman's lease. He admitted she had agreed to lease a clean and freshly painted apartment, with working air-conditioning and appliances. The mother showed me her notes she kept of every phone call and note she had sent to her landlord. There were many things she had brought to his attention, yet he never took care of any of them. She had called him about the loud music that kept both her and her daughter awake late at night, the many parties that left drunk and high people lying in the halls. He said she was over-exaggerating. I then showed him the pictures she had taken of people sleeping in the halls. After some discussion he agreed to return her security deposit and release her from her lease.

The Time Is Now to Help assisted this hard working single mom with her first month's rent at a small, clean apartment. Her rent is lower and she now feels safe to walk in and out with her daughter. The appliances are all working and her landlord is wonderful. She is still looking for a job comparable to the one she lost when the company she worked for went out of business. The two low paying jobs she has for now are paying her rent and utilities. She has applied for assistance but is on a waiting list. We had the necessary repairs made to her car. We also directed her to the W.C. Family Resource Center/Food Pantry. The healthy food she receives there will help her budget so she can survive.

The last time we spoke she was so much happier. The constant stress from the environment she was trying to live in and the lack of a good job had really taken a toll on her. She has her confidence and positive attitude back. She is again feeling like she can raise her daughter on her own and achieve the dreams she has for their future thanks to your caring and sharing.

A big “Thank You” to everyone that donated to The Richard H. Driehaus Matching Grant. We are happy to announce we have met our \$30,000.00 goal and will update everyone very soon on where every penny of the matching grant was spent. Thank you for your Caring and Sharing. I have so many requests for help. Never in all my years of caring/helping our fellow creations have I been so overwhelmed by so many desperate situations. Nearly 20% of those we help were living without natural gas, which means no hot water for bathing children, adults, and the elderly. Financially there are not enough funds to help all those that are suffering. Please help. Please Care and Share.

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

**Upcoming Event:** Please join us at Hemingway’s Port of Call Restaurant on September 19, 2009 at 7 p.m. They are hosting a Pirate Party to raise money and collect donations of non-perishable food and toiletries for the W.C. Food Pantry. Come dressed like a pirate and be entered into a costume competition. There will be giveaways, competitions, and promotions. Bring with your donation of non-perishable food or toiletries to get in the door and join us for a fun evening. Hemingway’s Port of Call Restaurant is located at N3270 County Hwy. H, Lake Geneva, (262)348-1200, next to the W.C. Food Pantry. Even if you cannot stay, please drop off toiletries, we desperately need them.

**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:** Paper Dolls, Paul Ziegler/Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Lake Geneva Lioness Club, Flitcroft Septic Systems, Gerald & Marilyn Wilkin, Martin O’Brien, Jim & Marilynn Dyer, Charles & Alice Brown, Albert & Ellen Burnell, Janet Williams, Jon Reavis, George & Karen Davis, Sr., Francis & Nancy Branfort, Robert & Joanne Batzler, Dennis & Christine Haak, Kathryn Alder, James & Karen Goodrick, William & Deborah Mecklenburg, Franklin & Joan Jones, Tom & Joyce Roche, Merilyce O’Connell, Royal Neighbors of America Camp No. 606, 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, 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](http://www.goodsearch.com) and help to raise funds for The Time Is Now to Help. Just make [www.goodsearch.com](http://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](http://www.timeisnowtohelp.org)