

Dear W.C.,

9/28/09

Your help could save mine and my children's lives. We have been living in fear for the last three years. My husband had been becoming more and more abusive and I am now in fear for our lives. I have tried to separate and filed a restraining order but I know he will find a way to get to me anyway. I lived in another state but found your organization online. I read on your website how you help women and children. I recently moved to the area and need some help securing a place to live with my children.

When I met my husband I was head over heels in love. We became very involved much too quickly. He immediately began to tell me how to dress, who I could talk to, and made me lose contact with all my friends and family. I willingly went along since I was young and didn't know any different. I truly believed it was his love and devotion that made him care about me so much. Once we were married he made me quit my job and sold my car. He said I didn't need to go anywhere without him. Whenever I stood up for myself or voiced my opinion he became extremely verbally abusive. He would call me stupid and other things much worse than that. Then one day after I had my first child I needed something from the grocery store but he didn't have time to take me. I asked him for the car keys and he slapped me. He called me horrible things and told me I was never allowed to go anywhere without him. It only got worse after that. I soon was pregnant with my second child and he hit me and pushed me throughout my pregnancy. My own father had abused my mother. I didn't know you could have a relationship without fear. I tried several times to get away from his grasp but each time he caught me. He would beat me and threaten to kill me and our children. I believe he eventually would have if I didn't get away from him. He bought a gun and would show it to me whenever we had an argument, to threaten me into submission.

I never dreamed my life would be like this. I cannot ask my own mother for help since she still lives in an abusive relationship with my father. I could not take another day of the pain, threats, and fear. Now I live with the fear of not being able to feed, clothe, or house my children, but it is still less fear than before. If you help my broken family we will finally be able to live without fear.

Mother and Children in Fear

Dear Readers,

I receive many letters from women living in abusive relationships. This one really tugged at my heart. I felt her fear and sadness coming through the pages of her letter. I called her immediately and we agreed to meet. I arrived to find a very petite, pale, thin woman and withdrawn children. They looked old beyond their years. We told the children to play where we could watch them safely while we talked. She did not want them hearing the story she

had to tell me. It would bring all the fear she was trying to erase right back to them. Her tears flowed as she described her years of abuse she endured. She left where she was living in another state, in the middle of the day while he was at work. She stayed in a very inexpensive motel for several nights, paying cash she had been slowly hiding away for several years. She was almost out of cash and had nowhere else to go. She did not have a car or anything to her name other than the few items of clothing they had brought with. They could only bring with what they could carry in a small bag since they had to walk a long distance to the bus station. She had taken a bus and other public transportation to get as far as she could. I could see the desperation in her eyes.

I agreed to pay her motel room for several more nights to give us time to find more suitable housing. She showed me several rental listings in the newspaper and they looked promising. I introduced her to one of my volunteers that offered to drive her to see the apartments. We found a small apartment that was clean and safe. It was within walking distance to the school and a grocery store. The Time Is Now to Help paid the first month's rent and security deposit. She was able to move in immediately.

We surprised her and the children with three twin beds set up when they arrived. There was a stack of new clean towels and sheets folded on top of each bed. We supplied groceries in the refrigerator and cupboards. The volunteer set up the kitchen with dishes, pots and pans, and eating utensils, given from several donors. She broke into tears when she saw how The Time Is Now to Help was helping her begin her life anew. There were even coloring books, crayons, and a few games for the children. When they showed joy over the few simple gifts the mother said it was the first time she had seen them smile in a very long time. I could see these simple acts of kindness and compassion let them know there are good God loving people in the world that care. The purpose of The Time Is Now to Help is to bring together people that care to help ease the many burdens of suffering.

I directed her to the proper authorities for protection and assistance. We provided her a cell phone, to begin the process of her independence. I believe she needed a cell phone for her protection and in case of an emergency. She is finding her strength and self confidence again after the many years of abuse. She still lives with the fear that her very abusive husband could find where she is living and threaten her, or worse, at any time. She is trying to move on with her life and help her children recover from the years of fear and oppression.

Thanks to your Caring and Sharing, this mother in fear was able to move out of her abusive life and begin anew. The last time we spoke she had finally found a job. She had been approved for assistance and this helped her considerably. We helped her to pay her first utility bill but she now is able to pay everything independently. The children are happy and

smiling again. They have all made good friends through the networking of wonderful people we provided. Thank you again for your Caring and Sharing.

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

Upcoming Event: Fundraiser for W.C. Food Pantry on Saturday, October 24, 2009 held at Hemingway's Restaurant & Bar. Doors open at 5p.m. Live band "South of Disorder" will be playing at 7p.m. There will be food, raffles, and prizes. Bring a non-perishable food item or toiletry to help the many in need in our area.

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: Dr. Mark Braden, Dr. Ryan Braden, and staff of Braden Dental Center, Paper Dolls, Paul Ziegler/Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Delavan Lioness Club, Martin O'Brien, Ellen Engen, Janet Williams, 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