

Dear W.C.,

10/5/09

I am writing to ask for help for my Mom and my children. I am writing this letter from jail where I have been for the last two months. I am honestly telling you I know I should be here for now. I am very concerned about how my mom and children are while I am in here. My mom took temporary custody of my children for me until I straighten out my act, as she put it. I fell into a bad crowd and was drinking and using drugs. My mom took my kids before I was arrested. Now she is having a hard time financially and with her health. I know two young kids are a lot for her to handle at her age. Now she tells me she lost her job due to the place she was working at closing down after she worked there for 20 years. She told me she is behind on her bills. She receives some assistance but it is not enough for her to get by. I know she will feed the kids before she pays the rent or utilities. She is a good grandma to them and she gives them the love and stability they need right now. I admit I was not a good mom and I got myself into some trouble. I will be out in a few months and will make a fresh start. I will not have any contact with my old crowd and I am taking parenting classes. My mom will be there to help me along the way. I am just so worried now for their wellbeing. She is under so much stress trying to care for the kids and pay the bills. I know she is looking for a job but has not been able to find one. I feel so helpless being where I am I thought the least I could do was write to you since I have heard so many good things about The Time Is Now. I do not want help for myself, but please help my mother and children.

Dear Readers,

I was appreciative of her honesty and admittance of her wrongdoing. I always tell people when I am interviewing them to be honest with me or I will not help them. I would prefer an honest admission of the mistakes they have made that brought them to this point in their lives. Her children attend school. I called the contact information for the grandmother that was given to me in the letter. She was surprised at first when I told her who I was on the phone. I explained her daughter had written to me out of concern for her and the children. She seemed relieved to talk to me. She said she had been keeping the whereabouts of her daughter a secret due to her embarrassment. The only people that knew were the children's doctor and teachers.

After we spoke for some time she opened up to me about her financial problems. When she spoke of her grandchildren I could hear the love and devotion she had for them. She invited me to come by the following day.

When I arrived at her small apartment I noticed she had to walk up two flights of stairs. When I knocked I was greeted by a woman with a cane. I knew those flights of stairs had to

be a real struggle for her. She invited me in and I immediately noticed everything was neat but well worn. She looked tired and strained. She told me about her daughters fall into a world of partying and drugs. She explained her son-in-law had moved out of state with another woman several years ago. He never paid child support or bothered to even visit. Her daughter was so distressed from the failure of her marriage she turned to drinking. When her daughter didn't bother to pick-up her children, after a weekend of bingeing, the mother told her to leave her children with her and not come back until she straightened herself out. Several days after that happened the daughter was arrested for a DUI and drug possession. She went on to tell me how her daughter seems to be on the right path now, having no choice but to straighten out while in jail. She is receiving job counseling and parenting classes. She said she will welcome her daughter into her apartment if she can keep herself clean and sober. She was adamant about the children not being exposed to that lifestyle.

When we got around to talking about her financial problems she was in tears. She said she had worked hard her whole life to support herself and her daughter when her husband had died at a young age. They didn't live lavishly but she was able to put food on the table and pay her bills. She thought she would work at her job until the day she retired. She never even saw the job loss coming. She did not have much savings due to the increase in expenses of gas, utilities, food and now the two children. She cried as she told me how scared she felt all alone, with no help, never letting the children know they were soon to become homeless. I reassured her there were many people living in the same circumstances financially right now. So many people have lost their jobs and even their homes. It is a tough economy to be looking for a job, especially for an older woman with two grandchildren to care for. I reassured her The Time Is Now to Help would be able to ease her burden for awhile. She hugged me and cried on my shoulder. I offered to assist her by bringing her rent and utilities up to date. We went over the other assistance she was receiving and I made some suggestions to her. She told me her rent was so reasonable she did not want to move out of the building she was in. She was on a waiting list for a ground level unit that was going to be available in the following month. I offered to help her move her few belongings when the apartment was available. After hearing this she was smiling and I could see the relief on her face, knowing we were there to help.

When the children arrived home from school I noticed how they ran in the door to hug their grandmother. She was all smiles. They were very polite and well mannered when she introduced me as her special friend. I said my goodbyes as they were happily telling their grandma about their day. The grandmother is a God send to these two loving gifts from God.

Several weeks later we moved her into her ground level apartment. She will be able to come and go as she wants now that the stairs are not such an obstacle. She also was happy to announce she got a part time job while the children were in school. She was looking forward

to her daughters release and a new beginning for her. She was very positive and not nearly as stressed as our first meeting. Thanks to your Caring and Sharing we helped another struggling fellow American.

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: Dr. Mark Braden, Dr. Ryan Braden, and staff of Braden Dental Center, Paper Dolls, Paul Ziegler/Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Martin O'Brien, William & Sharon Conklin, Gerald & Marilyn Wilkin, Margarie Egger, 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