

Dear W.C.,

I am a woman who has lived a very difficult life. When I was a child, my father abandoned my mother and me. For a time, we lived in our car, and during the summers we stayed in campgrounds. I didn't understand then that my mother was struggling with a drug addiction that consumed whatever money she managed to earn.

As a teenager, my life took an overwhelming turn. One night, while my mother was too high to protect me, I was abused by one of her boyfriends and became pregnant. Instead of supporting me, my mother blamed me and insisted I get rid of the baby. I couldn't do that. I moved into a shelter and began the long, painful journey of trying to build a better life.

I gave birth to my son shortly after turning 18. He is now seven years old and the light of my life. I do not hold him responsible for the sins of his father—he is a blessing to me every single day. Since his birth, I have given my life to Jesus, and my son and I attend church regularly.

I found work and began renting a room from an elderly woman in exchange for helping her around the house. What began as a practical arrangement became a gift that sustained us for seven years. We grew close, like family. My son even called her grandma.

Last week, she passed away, and I feel completely lost without her. Yesterday her son, whom I had never met in all these years, came to the house and told us we had to leave. I have never seen him visit once since I moved in seven years ago. I tried to explain that we have nowhere to go, but he did not seem to care.

A friend from church referred me to your charity for temporary help and also helped me apply for a new job yesterday that will pay me more so I can support my son and I. I am holding on to faith, but I am frightened. I do not know how long we will be allowed to remain in this house, and I am doing everything I can to protect my son from what I went through as a homeless child.

I pray I hear from you soon.

Dear Readers,

This young woman struck me with her enduring faith and hope, even after enduring so many difficulties in life. Her devotion to her child and her work ethic, along with her desire to continue to better her life and the courage to ask for help when she needed it most, drew me to answer her plea for help.

I called the young woman immediately and got to work in finding a solution to her pending homelessness. We talked for a very long time, and she shared more of what she had endured

as a young child. This is what motivates her to do better for her son every day. I knew we together needed to offer her the helping hand up she deserved.

The young woman was blessed to get the job she needed to survive going forward. We paid for car repairs and new tires to provide the reliable transportation she needed. We also provided a security deposit and two months rent to secure safe housing. I called the son of the elderly woman and after explaining our charity and reminded him this woman had helped his mother for over seven years, he finally changed his tone with me and agreed to let her stay the two weeks needed until her new rental was available.

With the addition of grocery and gas gift cards and two new beds, the young woman would be in a much better financial position. The son of the elderly woman let her take a few pieces of furniture and other household necessities. Even some mementos to remind her always of the kindness and love shared by one woman that saved her and her son when they needed it most.

Thanks to the Christmas Helping Hand Up \$50,000 Matching Grant and your generous matching donations we have been hard at work helping those most in need. With every donation being doubled, we can multiply the poverty relief provided, restoring hope and easing suffering for many.

Health & Happiness, Love & God Bless Everyone, Sal

Please Help: There are many coming to us in desperation. Our good fellow creations need our compassion. Together we make a big difference. Make checks payable to: The Time Is Now to Help, P.O. Box 1, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. The Time Is Now to Help is a federally recognized 501(c)3 charitable organization. You will receive a tax deductible, itemized thank you receipt showing how 100% of your donation was used for providing poverty relief.

Please visit our website to read more of our past and current columns and/or to make a donation: www.timeisnowtohelp.org Please go to the home page, follow the yellow highlighted link that says WC Letters to see current and past columns.

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Memorials: Rick and Mary Sturm in memory of Ken Pagel.

Prayer Chain: The power of prayer and positive thoughts comes from the true healer, our Lord answering our prayers. Please pray for healing for the following people: Trae, Bill, Brian, Mike, Sylvia, Megan, Kayla, Maria C., Judy, Scott, Annie, Marilyn, Brandon, Helen, Dennis, Mary, Joseph, Jordan, Jean, Tom L., Dr. Peter, Matthew, Pam E., Jenene B., John S., Patricia H., Wendy, Eric, Anthony, Mary, Charlie, Tom P., Christina, Billy, Mike, Cheryl, Bryan E., Betty, Ellie, Concetta, Cheryl, Kirubel M., Wanda L., Joan, Bruce, and Andy.

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