

Dear W.C.,

I am a volunteer at a local food pantry, and through this volunteering I met a wonderful elderly woman who I believe could truly use your help. She is humble, never asking for more than the bare minimum. Over time, as I got to know her better, she shared some of the hardships she has carried quietly for many years.

Her husband passed away more than fifteen years ago, but before he died, he had spent her entire life savings on gambling sprees. By the time she learned what he had done, everything she had worked so hard to save was gone. Since then, she has struggled just to survive, carefully choosing between necessities and often going without. For as long as I have known her, she has barely been able to make ends meet.

This past year brought additional challenges. Health issues kept her away from the food pantry for a while, and mounting medical expenses made an already fragile situation even worse. Her utility bills have soared over the past two months because she relied on portable heaters to keep her apartment warm enough. As her health declined, a kind neighbor began checking in on her and driving her to her medical appointments. Still, this elderly woman could truly use a helping hand up right now.

Dear Readers,

Because the elderly woman is hearing impaired, I reached out to the compassionate woman who wrote this letter on her behalf. We had a long and heartfelt conversation about the situation and the immediate needs the elderly woman was facing. She spoke movingly about her time volunteering at the food pantry and the many struggling individuals she encounters in our community every week.

She shared her deep love and concern for those in need, and her voice trembled with emotion as she spoke about this elderly woman in particular. She held this woman's, and many of the other people's concerns and burdens close to her heart.

With the help of this devoted volunteer and the caring neighbor, we were able to lift this elderly woman from a state of desperate poverty into a more stable and hopeful situation. Through their guidance, they assisted her in applying for appropriate benefits and programs that will allow her to live within a realistic and sustainable budget going forward. They also contacted the landlord to address the insufficient heat in her apartment. This was not the first time they had contacted the landlord about this matter, but once they mentioned my name and my concerns, he had the furnace repaired in a timely manner.

We helped meet her most urgent needs by providing utility assistance, rent support, and gift cards for food and essential items. Recognizing the quiet sacrifices of her neighbor, who had been helping despite her own financial struggles, we also provided grocery and gas gift cards to ease their burden.

Thanks to the Christmas Helping Hand Up \$50,000 Matching Grant and your generous matching donations, we have been busy providing meaningful poverty relief to those who need it most. In the coming weeks, we will share exactly how every dollar was spent to support single mothers, children, the elderly, the handicapped, veterans, and working poor families throughout our communities.

Thank you, and God bless you for making this matching grant a success and for standing with us—and with our neighbors—in their moments of greatest need.

*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](http://www.timeisnowtohelp.org) **Please go to the home page, follow the yellow highlighted link that says WC Letters to see current and past columns.**

**A Very Special Thank You:** Christmas Helping Hand Up Donors, Family Legacy Donors, Family Foundation, Wayne and Beverly Hilbelink, Kunes Family Foundation, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Paul Ziegler, Jeff Martin, Dr. Mark and Cynthia Brower, The Gallo Family Fund, Gerry and Kae Venema, Anderson Moran Construction, Donald Schwab, Corey Gray, Doris Kushch, Carolann Lippert, John and Cathee Laughlin, Larry and Kelly Happ, Alden United Methodist Church, Mark and Sandra Schmitt, Edward Hechmann, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Landon Petrie Jr. and Nancy Schwab, Mitchell and Nancy Venema, Roy and Donna Swedlund, John and Valerie Lincoln, Gary Mueller, Gerald and Donna Gerndt, Northern Management, John Oregan, George and Leah Rozhon, Monroe and Birdeen Putnam, Fairwyn SB, Steve and Mary O'Connor, Michael and Barbo Olijnek, Joseph Fusinato, Carolyn Doorn, David Greenawalt, Excel Family Chiropractic and Wellness, Dr. Donna Brown, Sandra Barnhill, Jeanne Allen, Deborah Leinweber, Kurt Blechner, Robert and Sharon Foscatto, Richard and Christine Costa, Sarah Wootton, Heidi Salas, Deborah Lenchard, Marshall Groom, Kevin Eulgen, Gregory Kerwood, all of our anonymous donors and ALL of you who support The Time Is Now to Help. Anyone who would like a Time Is Now donation box in your business, please call (262) 249-7000.

**Honoraries:** Monica Prairie in honor of Gary Dunham.

**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.

Please visit: [www.timeisnowtohelp.org](http://www.timeisnowtohelp.org)