

Dear W.C.,

I am writing to you from a homeless shelter, where I have been living with my two children for the past six weeks. After my husband left unexpectedly, I was no longer able to afford our rent and all our monthly bills on my own and had no choice but to seek shelter.

Since arriving here, I have been participating in their program and working hard to get my life back on track. The staff has been wonderful and supportive, but our time here is limited. I recently found a job, which I am very grateful for, but my car is in desperate need of repairs and is currently unreliable for getting to work.

In addition, I do not have the funds for first month's rent and a security deposit. Because of an eviction many years ago, most landlords are requiring two months' rent upfront. I finally feel hopeful about moving forward, but these obstacles are holding us back.

My children are anxious to leave the shelter and have a place of our own that we can call home. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for all you have done to help others in situations like mine.

Dear Readers,

This year, we have helped many individuals and families take steps toward independence after experiencing homelessness. Sadly, it is a growing issue in our communities, with far too few solutions available.

For this mother and her two children, a fresh start was within reach. After several lengthy conversations to better understand her situation, we worked together to create a realistic budget that would help prevent future evictions or returns to a shelter.

With her dedication to the shelter's program, the blessing of a good job and our assistance providing two months rent, a security deposit, necessary car repairs, new beds, and gift cards for food, clothing, toiletries, and other household essentials, this family was finally able to move forward.

After several weeks of searching, the mother found the perfect apartment for her family. When the children saw their new beds, they cried tears of joy. That happiness continued as they shopped for bedding and much-needed clothing using the gift cards provided. It had been a long time since these children had felt anything other than shame and sadness. Together, we helped bring smiles back to their faces.

Thanks to your generosity, this mother and her children are now enjoying a new life they never imagined possible just months ago. She is working hard to support her family and carefully managing her budget to ensure continued stability.

The needs in our communities have been overwhelming this winter season. Thanks to the Family Foundation 2026 \$40,000 Matching Grant, every donation made at this time will be matched dollar for dollar—allowing us to respond quickly to urgent situations and truly change lives when it matters most.

We are also nearing completion of the distribution of the Christmas Helping Hand Up \$50,000 Matching Grant. Soon, we will share how every dollar was used to provide critical poverty relief.

On behalf of every family kept warm and every household saved from homelessness, thank you for being the hands and hearts that bring hope during the coldest days of the year.

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.**

A Very Special Thank You: Christmas Helping Hand Up Donors, Family Foundation, Wayne and Beverly Hilbelink, Kunes Family Foundation, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Paul Ziegler, Dr. Mark and Cynthia Brower, The Gallo Family Fund, Gerry and Kae Venema, Bonnie Glennon, Glenn and Diane Lemanczyk, A.G. Cox Charity Trust, Joan Thompson, Budget Blinds, Michael and Mary Alice Deutsch, Anderson Moran Construction, Donald Schwab, Corey Gray, Carolann Lippert, John and Cathee Laughlin, Larry and Kelly Happ, HomeTown Auto Exchange, Lake Geneva Economic Development, Alden United Methodist Church, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Landon Petrie Jr. and Nancy Schwab, Mitchell and Nancy Venema, Roy and Donna Swedlund, Electronic Specialties, Gary Mueller, Scott and Austine Recknagel, John and Rita Race, St. James United Methodist Church Women in Ministry, John and Karla Zils, Jim Prater, Renaissance Charitable Foundation, William and Jean Isaacson, David and Christine Jones, Community Church of Richmond, 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.

Memorials: Terri, Kelly and Justin Kropetz in memory of Tom Schedler. The

following donations are given in memory of Joseph Varhula: Kathleen Bilskey, Sharon Ketterhagen, Jill Weckesser and Karen Varhula. The following donations are given in memory of Ron Wuttke: Patricia Keating, Dr. Charles Puntillo, Sharon and Virgil Wuttke, Christopher and Peggy Weidert, and Patrick and Mary Conwell.

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