

Dear W.C.,

I have been going through all the steps to become the guardian for my younger sister and brother. Our mother has struggled with drug addiction her whole life and I essentially raised myself and my siblings. Now my mother is in prison and will be there for years for crimes she committed to support her drug habit. I am 21 years old and my siblings and I have watched our mother decline for years. She was not a good mother because of her habit and I tried many times to get her clean and sober, while also making sure my siblings had food, clean clothes and made it to school every day. I have worked since I was 14, hiding my pay from my mother so I could feed them and provide any necessities. I am really struggling to keep up now as I am paying the rent on her apartment on my own. I need to show that I can provide a stable environment for my siblings. I was told you do not help people who are drug addicts and alcoholics, but would you be able to help children that are struggling because of their mothers' mistakes? I promise you that I will never use drugs or alcohol as I have seen the way it ruins your life and the lives of your loved ones. My siblings need me as I am the only person they have been able to rely on their whole lives. They are pleading with me to get them out of foster care. I would need help with getting into a two-bedroom apartment, so I am eligible to gain custody. Thank you in advance for considering our plea for help.

Dear Readers,

This young lady was correct in stating we are not able to help people who struggle due to addictions. We cannot help those who do not want to help themselves. But we have helped children who were living in poverty due to their parents' addictions. These parents put their children in harms way and cause unnecessary difficulties in their lives. This young woman and her siblings were proof of that.

I was finally able to get in touch with the young lady as she was a very busy person. Since writing her letter requesting assistance, she has begun working two jobs to try to save for a security deposit and first months rent. The problem was her inability to keep up with the rent at the three-bedroom apartment her mother had been renting and the overdue utility bill that went with that apartment. She also struggled due to the gas needed to get to these two jobs and the long distance she had to drive to visit her siblings several times a week. She emphasized the importance of being there for her sister and brother as they were very unhappy in foster care.

After a very long conversation that included some upsetting stories of neglect and abuse that were the result of her mother's drug habit, I understood even more why the siblings were so close. They had relied on each other for years for protection and the only love and care they had received was from each other.

We went over the young woman's budget and what she still needed to complete on her requirements for custody. She had done the hard work and completed every requirement except her inability to save enough for the first month's rent and security deposit at a smaller

and better apartment. When I heard the conditions at their present apartment, crime and drug use were a common element, I knew we needed to help get them to a new location. The young woman had already found what she called her dream apartment. It had two bedrooms, was affordable, and was in a family-oriented setting. She had already been to see the apartment and cried as she told me how happy she hoped they would finally be living in the clean environment it would provide.

Thanks to our assistance with a security deposit and first month's rent, this young woman and finally her siblings, were able to move into the dream apartment. We also provided gift cards for food, gas, and household necessities, allowing her to set up a true home for them all. She is happy to once again be making sure her siblings are going to school, eating properly and receiving the love and care she has been giving them since she was a young girl.

Thank you and God Bless you for making this and all our poverty relief efforts possible.

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: Peggy Cardiff in memory of Dot Cardiff, Lisa Haydam and Dena Hansen. Barbara Tatge in memory of June Wendt Kropf. Shirley Umland in memory of Sylvia Baker.

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: 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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