

Dear W.C.,

It has been a very difficult time for me and my children. I went through a long and painful divorce from my husband after years of threatening behavior and infidelity. He has not paid for any child support or maintenance since our divorce three months ago. He essentially disappeared and left me penniless as he had taken our only good car and even took most of our furniture without my knowledge while I was at work. Several years ago, he began drinking heavily and that is when he changed. I recently began my job, and I am proud of finally being able to earn my own way, but it is impossible to catch up. I am behind in my rent and our utilities are overdue. I had to buy a used car so I could get to work, and I am struggling to make the payments. My kids are fed and seem much happier without their drunk father always verbally abusing all of us. They are too young to understand the financial mess we are in, so I keep the stress of my financial struggles to myself. It would be such a blessing to get a fresh start after so many years of mental abuse and now the stress of poverty.

Dear Readers,

We all know how bad stress is for us. It can affect both your mental and physical health. I have seen the effects of excessive stress on many of our fellow creations, and it is a blessing to be able to remove the stress and pain of poverty for them. Helping this mother would be one of those blessings.

We met at a park so we could talk while the children played close by. I brought with me some gift cards for food, clothing, toiletries and other daily necessities I knew were probably in short supply.

While we talked the mother kept a close eye on the children. She admitted she was always worried that her now ex-husband would try to take the children just to spite her in some way. From what she shared with me it had been an extremely toxic relationship. It was probably a good thing she was being cautious. He had broken into her apartment and taken most of the belongings that she had been awarded in the divorce. He denied it but the mother knew it was him. Her greatest wish right now was to move into a secure building that he would not have access to.

We went over her budget and overdue bills. She no longer had a lease as her landlord refused to renew it because she was two months delinquent on her rent. They were on the verge of eviction. The mother had already found a new apartment that would provide the security she needed. We would provide a security deposit and first month's rent for the new apartment. This brought tears of relief for the mother. We also would pay her overdue utility bill and two car payments. As we reviewed the bills we would help her with and I handed her the gift cards she cried more tears of relief. This assistance would remove not only the stress of poverty she was under, but also the constant worry over another possible incident caused by her ex-husband.

The mother did not waste any time moving into the new apartment. Without having much furniture to move she was able to discreetly move by taking out a few bags at a time. We provided new beds and some used furniture to replace what her ex-husband had taken. The mother was relieved the children would be attending a new school in the fall. The relief from the constant stress she was under was evident during our last conversation. I even heard the unfamiliar sound of the mother laughing as she shared something one of the children had said. It is a blessing to share stress relief and even joy with so many in our community thanks to you.

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: Thelen Total Construction and Nancy Thelen in memory of Maureen Slattery-Luebke.

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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