

Dear W.C.,

My family is everything to me. I have five children that range from 14 to 4 years old. Our youngest child has had some medical problems over the past three years that have been very challenging. We have been to many medical appointments and procedures in Madison since this began. Her medical care, and the care of my other children, has been the focus of my life. I am not able to work as much of her care is around the clock. The only thing that kept us from financial ruin was my husband's ability to work. That changed over a month ago when my husband broke his leg when he fell down some stairs while helping his mother move. He has been unable to work since the accident. We just managed to get by each month before this happened and now have fallen severely behind in our bills. The small amount we had saved has gone towards food, gas and medications. I'm trying to remain strong for my family but there are just some days I feel so defeated and overwhelmed. Could you please help us during this difficult time?

Dear Readers,

At my last stop on a day that had already been filled with emotional visits to several families in need, I met this family. It did not take long for me to be charmed by the children and to feel compassion for the husband and wife as they were going through a lot.

The house was as orderly as a small home with a large family could be. It was filled with the voices of children and the excited barks of a big lab named Buck. After our introductions the mother asked the older children to take the younger children and the boisterous dog out to the yard to play. We sat in chairs on the porch and watched as the children ran and the dog joined in.

The husband made his way out to a chair using his crutches. We immediately got to work going through their budget and filling me in on more details about what they were going through.

The husband and wife both admitted to having been struggling for the past year. The mother was well educated and could have pursued a career, but the care of her family was now her priority. The husband had recently begun a new job after years of working for an unfair employer, when he broke his leg. He was assured by his new employer that the job would still be there for him when he could return to work.

We went through their budget line by line, and I began creating a plan for them. We would pay two months' rent, their overdue utility bill and provide a car repair to ensure they had safe transportation to the daughter's medical care. We also would provide gift cards for food, clothing, toiletries and gas. The assistance I would provide next was unexpected and not one I had ever provided before.

While I prepared to leave and was saying goodbye to the children and the rambunctious lab, we heard a familiar sound. The children looked sad because they knew it was the sound of an

ice cream truck. When I asked them why they were so sad, one of the children said, “We have never gotten ice cream from the ice cream truck. We don’t have money for that. But we like to chase it and see what the other kids get.” The mother looked embarrassed, and the youngest daughter began to cry. I knew there was one more thing I had to do to help this family. I could not look at those sad children’s faces and watch the other children in the neighborhood all purchasing ice cream without allowing them this treat. I asked the mother if it would be okay if they could have ice cream today and discretely handed her enough money for several ice cream truck treats over the coming weeks. I watched as the mother began to cry as she handed the oldest child the ice cream money. All the children erupted in shouts of joy as they ran to make their first purchase from the ice cream truck. While this is not our usual area of poverty relief it is one that brought happiness to all of us as we watched the children enjoy their ice cream bars, and all laughed while Buck cleaned the ice cream from the floor and their messy faces.

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: Marvin and Claudette Daniel in memory of Father Tom Fait.

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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