

Dear W.C.,

I am a single mother with one child. I have no other family other than my two-year-old daughter. Her father left as soon as he found out I was pregnant, and I have not heard from him since. My daughter and I are living in a studio apartment above a garage because that was all I could afford. I am unable to work right now due to some health problems I am having, and my daughter has some special needs that make her daycare costs too expensive. It does not make sense for me to leave her in the care of strangers as I would not even earn enough to support us. Right now, my rent is overdue because my car needed repairs. We also are really struggling with the heat because the apartment does not have air conditioning. We have been going to the library and other places that have air conditioning during the day but when we come home to sleep it is stifling. I know people are suffering due to hunger and other more important problems, but I feel like the worst mother if I just watch my daughter suffer all summer.

Dear Readers,

I paid a visit to this mother on a nice sunny day when the temps were in the low 80's. After climbing the stairs up to the upper garage apartment, I was already feeling warm. I felt the heat even more when the mother opened the door and invited me inside.

The windows were open but the few windows that were there did not allow much fresh air inside. It was not even one of the extreme heat days and I was uncomfortable. When I looked down at the little girl, I took note of her red cheeks and sweaty face. I knew I had to get something done now to remedy their situation.

After measuring the windows and assessing available outlets, I called a volunteer to pick up a window air conditioner immediately. The mother and I would talk while waiting for the volunteer to arrive.

The mother had the little girl sit in her booster chair with a popsicle and a coloring book while we talked. I knew we did not have long to cover everything, so we got right to work. The mother shared with me how she had been betrayed by the father of her child. He had made promises to her that he had never had any intention of keeping. She shared her difficulties in paying for all the expenses of a young child with special needs all on her own.

We went over her budget, and I offered some suggestions. I would have normally suggested she move out of the small, outdated apartment. The appliances were on their last leg and there was little insulation. The landlord had taken this into consideration as her rent was one of the lowest rents I have heard recently. The mother had moved into the apartment when she had been waiting for approval for housing, which never came.

She shared with me their health challenges and the costs of daycare that made working at this stage in her daughter's life unfeasible. We discussed her future job opportunities that would

be achievable once her daughter was of school age. The mother was vehement about not being on public assistance forever and her desire to return to work.

The volunteer arrived and immediately got to work installing the window air conditioner. The mother cried tears of relief when she felt the cool air begin to fill her small apartment. Both the volunteer and I tried to hide our own tears when we watched the little girl stand in front of the air conditioner and jump up and down in excitement.

The mother could hardly contain her own joy when we provided her overdue rent payment, paid a credit on her utility bill to cover the cost of the air conditioning, and provided gift cards for food and gas for medical appointments. As the volunteer and I said our goodbyes we were relieved to see the mother and the daughter both smiling, no longer suffering in the heat. The stress of guilt and worry had been lifted from the mothers' shoulders thanks to all of "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.

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**Honorary:** Mary Kay Ring in honor of Bob & Mary Ann Pearce's 70th Wedding Anniversary.

**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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