

Dear W.C.,

I am writing to ask if you might be able to help my grandmother. She has been both a mother and father to my little brother and me ever since our dad passed away and our mom struggled with addiction. My grandma is truly our hero — she sacrificed so much to give us a stable, loving home.

She still works full time but recently missed several weeks when my younger brother became ill and was hospitalized. He's 13 now and still living with her. He mentioned that things have been difficult financially since she lost that time from work. He said he noticed she is barely eating what little food they have.

I used to help with her bills when I could, but since moving away to college and sharing an apartment with four other girls, I'm barely managing to cover my own expenses. I wish I could do more. I know my grandma has no savings to fall back on, and she may be too proud to ask anyone for help. She is a good Christian woman with a kind heart, and I'm so worried about her and my brother. Thank you for any help you might be able to provide.

Dear Readers,

I contacted the caring and concerned granddaughter, and she shared more of their story. It was clear her grandmother had raised them with love, discipline and faith after a difficult beginning. After learning more about their situation we decided it would be best to contact the grandmother together. The granddaughter put through the call, made the introductions and after some protests the grandmother broke down in tears and agreed she needed our help.

We even shared some tears together as I listened to the grandmother talk about the difficulties of watching her daughter fall into addiction and making the decision to adopt her grandchildren when their mother was no longer able to care for them. I have heard other parents share this pain before, but it was inexcusable what lengths of neglect this mother had put her own children through before the grandmother learned of it. She cried tears of guilt for not finding out sooner but her daughter had gone missing with the children for months at a time.

Now all these years later the grandchildren were coming to the aid of their beloved grandmother. They knew she would never ask for help herself, but she cried tears of gratitude for what we would be doing for her now.

We were able to help her with two months' rent and her past due and future utility bill to ease the financial burden she has been facing since missing work. We added gift cards for food after the grandmother admitted she had been skipping meals to make sure her grandson had enough to eat. This support will allow her to catch up on essential expenses and focus on

caring for her grandson who had some lingering health problems, without the added stress of overdue bills.

When we told her this help came from caring hearts who wanted to share in her burden, she was overcome with emotion. She said, "I didn't think anyone cared. I've always tried to handle everything myself, but I just couldn't do it this time. Thank you for helping me and my grandson."

Because of compassionate donors like you, this family now has hope and stability once again. To continue that spirit of compassion please consider donating to the Barnabas \$5,000 Matching Grant. Barnabas has been providing matching grants for over 11 years, and their support has provided poverty relief for hundreds of our fellow creations in need.

God bless you and thank you for making our poverty relief mission 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.

A Very Special Thank You: Carolyn J. Gable Foundation, Family Foundation, Kunes Family Foundation, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Paul Ziegler, Gerald and Cheryl Kuhn, John and Valerie Lincoln, Timothy and Brenda Wegge, Paper Dolls, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Mary Fitzgerald, Dr. Mark and Cynthia Brower, Carolann Lippert, First Baptist Church, Carolyn Dale, William Antti, Aileen Hodges, Rita's "My Salon", Marvin and Claudette Daniel, John and Rita Race, Elizabeth Knoth, J.N. Hackman, Carol Hinnens, Gene and Linda Krauklis, Donald Lightfield, Elaine Voss, Gerald and Janice Aldrich, Jeffrey and Helen Harold, Anthony and Sandra Perri, Robert and Patrica Davis, George and Laurretta Clettenberg, on boxes. Anyone who would like a Time Is Now donation box in your business, please call (262) 249-7000.

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.

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