

Dear W.C.,

I am a 59-year-old woman who is raising my 5-year-old grandson since my daughter died last year. My daughter and I ran a cleaning business together, but I lost my business after my daughter died. I struggled to keep my business running but I could not do it on my own while filled with so much grief. I also was overwhelmed by my new role as not only grandma but mother to my grandson. He needed me as much as I needed him over the past 10 difficult months. My daughter was in debt at the time of her death. She hid that from me as well as her illness until she could no longer hide it. She knew how devastating it would be to all of us and tried to spare me any extra pain. I had to move out of my one-bedroom apartment into a two bedroom so he could have a room of his own. All my grandsons' expenses are my full responsibility. I have finally found a new job cleaning while my grandson is in school. I could not afford daycare. I am two months behind in rent and I have been skipping meals so I can afford enough food for my always hungry growing grandson. In addition to my grief I now am filled with fear as we face a possible eviction. Please help me get back on track so I can be fully present with my grandson as he continues to heal from the loss of his mother. I know with my new job I will be fine going forward if I can just get caught up on my past due bills.

Dear Readers,

There can be no greater pain than the loss of a child. When I spoke to this woman, she confirmed this was true. Her loss had changed her life in many painful ways. While we could not ease the pain of loss, we could help to ease the pains of poverty for this sweet woman and her young grandson.

When we spoke, I learned more about her situation, her daughter's brief illness that had quickly taken her, her life as a grandmother now, and what help she needed to lift her out of her present state of poverty.

We went over her budget and together we made some adjustments. I could see her new job would not ever allow her to catch up on her overdue expenses but going forward she would be fine. They were getting by on the bare minimum of food. Her growing grandson needed shoes and clothing. Their utilities were overdue. The grandmother cried combined tears of shame and grief.

We together would remove that shame and fear of poverty she carried with her. We would pay her two months of overdue rent and pay an additional month to allow her time to recover financially. We paid her overdue utilities with some extra to cover the future months utility needs. We provided gift cards for food, gas and clothing. All this assistance was tearfully

accepted as the grandmother knew how far into debt they had fallen over the past year as she struggled in grief.

Several weeks later I contacted the grandmother to check on her progress and new job. This time the grandmother cried tears of relief as she shared how their lives were changed thanks to The Time is Now to Help. Thank you for making this grandmothers and all our assistance possible.

We have nearly met the Family Foundation 2025 \$40,000 Matching Grant and hope to soon share with you where every penny of this grant was spent for poverty relief in our communities. Thank you!

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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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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