

Dear W.C.,

I have been thinking of writing you a letter for several weeks but kept putting it off thinking things would improve, but they have not. I am currently going back and forth between my elderly mother's couch to motel rooms with my teenage daughter due to our rental having toxic mold. I signed a lease for what I thought would be a great place for us, but within a few days both my daughter and I were suffering from constant headaches and nausea. It got to the point where we could barely get out of bed in the morning we were so sick. I eventually found the source to be some mold in the basement from what must have been a past flood. The landlord refuses to let us out of the lease and will not return my two security deposits he had required. Without being let out of my lease and the return of those funds I am unable to find us another place to live. The landlord insists there is no mold even though I sent him pictures of it, and we have been feeling much better since moving out of the townhouse. Paying for motel rooms has caused great hardship as I work two jobs and have had to drive much farther than our rental was from my job. My other bills, our cell phones, car insurance, utilities, and food are still due, even while homeless. We may have to start sleeping in my car as I cannot afford to pay for motel rooms any longer, and we can no longer stay at my mother's place, or we will put her housing in jeopardy. I feel so overwhelmed and stressed and do not know where to go for help.

Dear Readers,

I contacted this woman as I had many questions about her situation. After brief introductions we got right to work trying to resolve her dilemma.

I looked over the photos of the mold the woman had shared with her landlord. There was no doubting the extent of the mold but without testing she did not know what kind of mold they were dealing with. She had correctly assumed due to the severe symptoms she and her daughter had almost immediately succumbed to after moving in, that it was toxic. The landlord had refused to test the mold or acknowledge its existence. Without his release of their lease and refund of security deposits they would continue to struggle. I told the woman I would call the landlord and promised to call her back soon.

After speaking with the landlord and reminding him of his humanitarian responsibility as a landlord to provide a safe environment, he changed his tune and agreed to let the woman and her daughter out of the lease. It took more convincing to have him return her security deposit, but he finally agreed. He also promised to have the mold remediated before any future renters, after I again reminded him of his responsibility as a landlord.

With this good news I called the woman back so we could finish our conversation. She immediately burst into tears when I told her the news, she was no longer a tenant in the townhome. She would be able to return briefly to get the remaining items and a few pieces of furniture.

We would provide immediate assistance with a clean motel room until a new rental was found. The woman had been looking daily since moving out of the townhome and had an alternative ready to call on. When I told the woman we would provide the security deposit and first month's rent for the new rental, she again began to cry. With our assistance this mother and daughter would be in a much better position financially and even emotionally. This time period had caused extreme stress and anxiety for both the mother and the teenage daughter. We together removed that stress and anxiety, and provided a stable environment for them to thrive

Thank you for letting us be a blessing to so many in our communities. You help make all our good works 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: Family Foundation, Kunes Family Foundation, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Paul Ziegler, Albert and Ellen Burnell, Jeff Martin, Jim and Lynette Heimann, Fidelity Charitable, Paper Dolls, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Dr. Mark and Cynthia Brower, Peter and Debbi Kroening, Carolann Lippert, George and Lauretta Clettenberg, James Shannon, Aileen Hodges, J.N. Hackman, Carol Hinnners, Annette Roesing, Kelleher Family, LLC, John and Marian McClellan, John and Rita Race, Jeffrey and Helen Harold, Beth and Jody Rendall, Rita's "My Salon", Duane and June DeYoung, Robert and Patricia Davis, Saints Simeon and Anna Anglican Church, all of our anonymous donors and ALL of you who support The Time Is Now to Help donation 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: 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.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org

