

Dear W.C.,

After searching and applying for assistance from several organizations and agencies, I was told to write to The Time is Now to Help. I'm not sure if I qualify, but here I go.

I am a senior woman who lives in the mobile home I used to share with my dear husband who passed away last year after years of suffering due to dementia. I was his caregiver for eight years, even while recovering from my own hip and knee surgeries.

We were never blessed with children, and my remaining family cannot help. My good friends are long gone as they distanced themselves from me when I was consumed with my husband's care. I have a small group of women I meet with monthly from my church that bring me some comfort and on occasion bring a meal to share. I would love to be more involved, but I do not have decent clothing, and I am embarrassed over the state of my affairs.

I have had some expenses that were outside of my carefully planned budget. After years of neglecting my dental care due to a lack of funds, and not being able to leave my husband alone, I found myself living in constant pain. I had several teeth taken care of because I could no longer take the pain. I put it on a payment plan, but it is causing me to fall behind in my lot rent and utilities. I also had to pay for some maintenance on my car to keep it running as it suffered due to the same neglect.

No one has been able to provide any help or solutions to my financial problems, so you are my last hope. I am praying you can help where no one else was able.

Dear Readers,

I had an immediate connection with this elderly woman. After a long conversation, we were able to help her begin getting back on track.

I could not allow her to be turned away again, as her plea for help was both genuine and heartfelt. Over time she finally shared that she had been struggling to keep up since her husband passed away. She felt embarrassed and on more than one occasion over the past year, had been made to feel ashamed. I made sure she felt comfortable throughout our conversation, and I reassured her she was in a safe place to share her story.

Together we created a workable budget that would only work once we brought her overdue expenses up to date. With our assistance, we paid her overdue lot rent and several months in advance. We also brought her utilities up to date, paid off her dental

care loan, and provided gift cards for food, clothing, and gas. This assistance was truly life changing.

Today, this elderly woman is no longer alone at home crying tears, burdened by the fear and shame she felt because of poverty. Freed from the heavy weight of her financial stress, she has reconnected with people in her community, made new friends in her church and is participating in activities she once avoided. Together we were able to lift that burden and restore her dignity and hope for the future.

Please help to continue our mission of poverty relief by donating to the new Spring Family Legacy Matching Grant. We are so blessed to have the amazing support of our matching grant providers and all of “You” who make our charity work 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, Dr. Mark and Cynthia Brower, William H. and Lois J. McEssy Foundation, Timothy and Brenda Wegge, Morgan Stanley GIFT, Jeff Martin, The Chuck and Barb Taylor Charitable Fund, Paper Dolls, Barbara and Lee Zuzanek, Joseph and Sharon Symoens, Lake Geneva Area Realty, John Osvath, Fidelity Charitable Grant, George and Laurretta Clettenberg, Anna Kiel, Rita’s “My Salon”, Denise Hubbard, Nancy Palmer Payne, Kelleher Family, LLC, Joel and Annette Hovestol, Loretta Adsit, Steven and Sandra Chinn, James Shannon, Terri Kropetz, Gregory Swanson, Kelly Tomaske, Diane Emerson, Pamela Aldrich, Karin Slayton, William Davit, Carolyn Doorn, David Greenawalt, all of our anonymous donors and ALL of you who support The Time Is Now to Help. Anyone who would like a Time Is Now donation box in your business, please call (262) 249-7000.

Memorials: Greg and LuAnn Himebauch in memory of Mary Scarlata and Maryann Dietz.

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.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org