Dear W.C.,

Several months ago, I was in a terrible car accident that left me severely injured and unable to return to work. I was in the hospital for over a week and have gone through two surgeries. I have one more surgery to go before I can begin physical therapy and hopefully return to work. It is especially difficult because I am a single mother with two children. I am currently two months behind in my rent and my utilities are overdue. I have only been able to keep up with food and other small bills thanks to the child support I receive. My landlord has begun eviction proceedings even with me explaining my situation. This whole mess has me unable to sleep at night as I try to think of solutions. My mother helps with the kids, driving to doctors appointments, and an occasional meal but she is unable to help more than that. She is the one who told me about The Time is Now to Help and how you help people who are going through difficult situations like mine. I have never had to ask for financial help my whole life as I have always been a hard worker, sometimes working two jobs to get by. This has been the most humbling experience I have ever had.

Dear Readers,

We support people through humbling experiences, helping to ease their discomfort of both enduring a difficult experience and having to share that vulnerability with us. There is often relief when we end our conversations as we have removed the worry and stress they are going through.

This woman had been suffering physically as she was struggling to regain her physical abilities due to multiple fractures and difficult surgeries. Many times in our conversation the woman emphasized her desire to get well and return to supporting her children. The accident had not been her fault, but the driver walked away uninjured. Unfortunately, this single mother with two children has not been able to walk unaided since the accident, but she had hopes that her upcoming surgery and physical therapy would finally change that. I encouraged that hope as often that is what helps us to get through difficult times.

We talked about many things over the next hour, not just her injuries and the accident. We talked about her children, her mother, her job in the past, her hopes for the future, and then we went over her budget. She shared more details on her eviction, explaining her landlord was a senior citizen that counted on her rent for their own balanced budget.

I called the landlord to confirm this and reassured them we would be helping this woman pay her overdue rent and two additional months while she finished her recovery. This news brought the landlord to tears as they had felt terrible about the eviction but had not known how else to go about the situation without falling behind in bills themselves. With my reassurance that this would be paid immediately they promised to halt the eviction process.

I then went back to reviewing all the information the single mother had provided me so I could put together a plan to get her and her children through the next few months. We would provide additional assistance by paying her overdue utilities and some added to cover the

next few months, gift cards for additional food, toiletries, clothing for the children and gas gift cards for her mother to allow her to drive her daughter to her medical appointments. This assistance would be the difference between her continued struggle in poverty for years to come or being able to pick up the pieces successfully once she was healed. The single mother cried tears of relief as she realized what our assistance meant for her and her children. She would no longer be enduring sleepless, stress filled nights of worry as she tried to make a plan to save her two daughters from homelessness.

I checked in with this woman last month and was happy when I heard all the positive changes made in her life. She would be returning to work in six weeks as she was finishing her physical therapy and proud to tell me she was walking well with a cane. She sounded like a different person as she no longer was in constant pain and the stress of poverty had been removed. We laughed together as we said goodbye, a sound I had never heard in our previous phone conversation. We are so blessed to be able to help people going through their most trying moments, thanks to "You" and your support. Thank you and God Bless you. 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, Paper Dolls, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Dr. Mark and Cynthia Brower, Peter and Debbi Kroening, Carolann Lippert, Greg Johns, Dick and Trae Torhorst, Gregory Swanson, Kelly Tomaske, Kristie Wandsneider, Karen Moessner, Karin Slayton, Jeanne Allen, William Davit, Sindee Benson, David Greenawalt, Patricia Mecum, Sarah Wootton, PayPal Giving Fund, Patricia D'Angelo, Dina Crofts, Terry Collamore, Diane Emerson, 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: <u>www.timeisnowtohelp.org</u>