

Dear W.C.,

My soon to be ex-husband and I were living with my in-laws, and I was caring for my husband's grandfather full time. About a year ago my husband began to change. He started drinking heavily and became verbally abusive. I tried my best to get him to stop but my in-laws always enabled him even when he was drinking and got mean. Three weeks ago, I found out he had a girlfriend on the side and after a terrible argument he hit me and locked me out of the house. Thank God I at least have my own car from before we were married, or I would have nowhere to go and nothing to my name. My mother in-law threw my clothes out on the front lawn for me to pick up, not even bothering to put them in a bag. I was always respectful and spent all my time helping them around the house, cleaning, cooking all the meals, caring for grandpa, mowing the lawn, you name it, without them ever offering to help. I realize now I was treated more like a servant than a daughter or wife. Now I have nothing to show for my last three years of work and marriage. I am trying to apply for jobs but without a reference for the past three years, access to a shower, and proper work attire, it is nearly impossible. With my own family all deceased, and the people I used to call my family having turned their backs on me, I have no one else to turn to. I feel hurt and betrayed and now scared for my future. Please help me find my way.

Dear Readers,

Even without knowing the full story of this homeless woman's journey, what I had read in her letter was compelling enough to know we would be offering her a helping hand.

I reached out to the woman and could hear the storm blowing rain against the windows of her car while we spoke. She assured me she was not driving as she was parked in a grocery store parking lot hoping she would not have to move anytime soon as she was almost out of gas. I listened as she told me how she had been forced to move her car every few hours as she worried about being found to be living in her car. Her anxiety was already great and only made worse by the storm.

The initial pain over being physically abused and thrown out of what she had considered her family and her home, had now been replaced by shock and anger. We talked a very long time until that anger became a motivation to improve her life and make necessary changes.

The first step was to get the homeless woman out of her car and into a motel room, where she could shower, sleep, and even prepare simple meals. This step alone would increase her chances of finding a job. A volunteer met her at the motel parking lot with a bag of food and other toiletry items she would need. They also brought gift cards for clothing, food and other necessities.

After a good nights sleep we resumed our conversation. I found her to be in an improved mind set after just the first day of our assistance. This time we spoke about her job skills and previous experience. We went over her options and found two she should apply for. I provided tips for her job interview and with that information she was able to secure a job. With our encouragement and assistance her positive attitude would improve every day.

One month later this previously homeless and hopeless woman was a new person. She was proud of her job success and ready to move into an apartment she would share with an elderly woman we were also helping. Both women would be able to afford all their expenses with rent and utilities being shared. With the addition of two new beds, two months rent, and gift cards for gas, household necessities and food, they would both have a fresh start together. They are now enjoying their friendship and the blessing of feeling respected and needed.

Thank “You” and God Bless “You” for making this and all our poverty relief efforts a success. We appreciate your support every day that allows us to change lives throughout our communities.

*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](http://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: 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., Ron K., Marian K., Judy, Wendy, Eric, Anthony, Mary, Charlie, Tom P., Christina, Billy, Mike, Cheryl, Bryan E., Ellie and Cornelia.

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