

Dear W.C.,

I am being forced to move farther from my job due to my rent being raised again. I could no longer afford to live close to my job and my son's school as there were no rentals available that would fit in my budget. I have a thirteen-year-old son that wanted to graduate middle school with his friends, so I did not want to force him to change schools near the end of the school year. I will only be able to come up with the additional month's rent and security deposit if we cut back on food and other necessities. It is so hard being a single mother, especially when you do not receive any support from the father of your child. I feel like I am always making decisions to cut back on one bill to be able to pay another. Hopefully this move will enable us to afford groceries and other necessities that I am always cutting back on, but it will mean more driving and gas.

Dear Readers,

The search for affordable housing seems to be a consistent topic of conversation when I do interviews and budget reviews. Rents keep rising, food prices keep increasing, it is especially hard on single mothers and the elderly.

When I contacted this mother, she was already behind on some of her expenses. She had indeed been spreading out her income to try and appease everyone, but not satisfying any of her debts. It had worked for a short time, but it was not a successful long-term plan. With skipped meals and even skipping one of her prescriptions, she had managed to pay her rent but was still behind in her utilities and car payment.

We went over her budget thoroughly and I looked over the lease for the new apartment she had hopes of moving to. It was a good 25-minute drive from her job that was presently only 10 minutes away. Taking that into consideration it still would be a substantial savings for her each month to make the move. Looking at her financial situation I also saw there was no way she could come up with that additional security deposit.

The mother was emotional when she talked about her son. He was a high honors student that loved the school he attended, and she did not want to take that from him right at the end of the school year. Due to her lease, she would need to move a few weeks before the school year ended but had promised her son she would drive him to school so he could graduate with his class. This additional driving for her job and her son's school would require some necessary service to her car to ensure she had reliable safe transportation.

Together we provided the required security deposit and the first month's rent for the new apartment. We also paid her overdue utility bill so she could have new utility service put in her name. We would provide a car repair, pay two car payments, provide new tires and gas gift cards to ease the additional strain due to the extra driving. When I finished telling the

mother our plan for assistance, the mother was silent. I was not sure if she had heard me, so I asked her if she was alright. Then I heard her crying and after several minutes she said, "We will be alright now. You have removed so much stress. I don't know how to thank you." I told her about all of "You" and how you make our good works possible. This brought even more tears of gratitude for the assistance we were providing to her and her son.

Thank you for making this and all our poverty relief efforts a success. Thanks to "You" and the Kune's Family Foundation \$20,000 Matching Grant, every dollar you donate at this time will be matched, doubling the poverty relief we are able to provide. 100% of this matching grant will be used to provide poverty relief throughout our communities. Thank you to the Kune's Family Foundation, and all of "You", for your generosity and support of our poverty relief efforts!

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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Memorials: Richard and Riota Kallstrom in memory of Donald Bloch.

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., Betty and Ellie.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org

