

Dear W.C.,

This past year has been the most difficult of my life. Three months ago, my son was diagnosed with leukemia, and our lives have been turned upside down. He is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatments in Milwaukee several times each month, and the emotional and physical toll has been overwhelming.

As a single mother, I have no support from my son's father and have been trying to manage everything on my own. Because my son requires constant care and supervision, I have used up all my paid time off so I have taken unpaid leave from work. The loss of income has created financial hardships that seem impossible to overcome.

My car is in desperate need of a repair, and the cost of fuel for our frequent trips to Milwaukee for his health care continues to strain an already stretched budget. I am now one month behind on my rent and unable to keep up with my utility bills. Every day feels like a battle between caring for my son's health and worrying about how I will pay our basic living expenses.

I am blessed to have two good friends that have been helpful with errands and even meals after a long day at the hospital, but that is all they can afford to share as they have their own families to support. I do not know how we will get through the next month without some financial help.

Dear Readers,

When I spoke with this mother, I could hear the exhaustion in her voice. She is carrying a burden that few of us can fully comprehend. While many parents worry about school activities and everyday childhood challenges, she spends her days sitting beside her son during chemotherapy treatments, praying for positive test results and hoping for a brighter future.

Cancer affects far more than the individual receiving treatment. It impacts entire families emotionally, physically, and financially. This mother's life changed the moment she heard the words, "Your son has leukemia." Since then, every aspect of her daily routine has revolved around hospital visits, medications, treatments, and providing comfort to her child.

Like many families facing a serious medical crisis, she was living paycheck to paycheck before her son's diagnosis. The loss of income caused by taking unpaid leave has quickly created a financial emergency. Rent payments and utility bills have fallen behind. Reliable transportation is a constant worry. Yet despite these challenges, her primary concern remains her son and his recovery.

Over the past 38 years that The Time Is Now to Help has been in existence, we have assisted many families facing medical hardships. We have witnessed firsthand how a serious illness can devastate a household's finances. Families are often forced to choose between paying rent, purchasing groceries, repairing a vehicle, or traveling to lifesaving medical appointments. No parent should have to make those decisions while caring for a critically ill child.

After reviewing this mother's circumstances, we provided assistance with this mother's past-due rent and paid three additional months, paid her overdue utility bills and an additional amount for future bills, provided the necessary car repair, gas gift cards, and grocery gift cards. Ensuring that she has reliable transportation was especially important so her son can continue receiving the medical treatments he needs without interruption.

This mother and son's situation reminds us how quickly life can change. A medical diagnosis can strike without warning, affecting people from every walk of life. Many of us take our health, our jobs, and our daily routines for granted until something unexpected occurs. Stories like this serve as a powerful reminder of the importance of compassion and community support.

Please keep this young boy and his mother in your thoughts and prayers during the difficult months ahead. The road through cancer treatment can be uncertain, but thanks to your support, and her caring friends, this mother and son do not have to walk that road alone. Together, we have ensured that this mother is able to focus on what matters most, supporting her son in his fight against leukemia and looking forward to a healthy future.

We are deeply grateful for the extraordinary generosity of our matching grant providers and for each and every one of you who makes our charity work possible. Together, you have brought life-changing poverty relief to many of our neighbors in need.

Health & Happiness, Love & God Bless Everyone, Sal

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 Legacy Donors, Family Foundation, Kunes Family Foundation, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Paul Ziegler, Dr. Mark and Cynthia Brower, Albert and Ellen Burnell, Kathleen and Brian Hurdis Charitable Fund, Jeff Martin, Paper Dolls, Kathryn Drexler, Monroe and Birdeen Putnam, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Allen and Dorothy Hermansen, William and Patricia Antti, Douglas Thorp, William and Diane Garvens, Carolyn Doorn, Deborah Hewitt, Jake and Melissa Rankin, David Greenawalt, Donna Theesfeld, Robert Dingeldine, Saul Pett, Sarah Wootton, PayPal Giving Fund, Greg Johns, Ellen Fox, Sharon McRae, 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: Timothy and Brenda Wegge in memory of Russell Wegge. Richard and Lindy Urbach in memory of Arlene Carpenter.

Honoraries: The following donations were given in honor of Harvey Altenberg's 80th Birthday: Ray Altenburg, Karen Lawlor, Fred and Judy Kmiec, Tom and Kathy Sonderreger, Steve and Betty Cleveland, JoAnn Krause, Jan and Tom Poe, Jackie Hagedorn, Alfred Gruling, Linda Williams, David and Mary Nicoson, Irene Keats, Gail Davis, Richard and Judy Hauser, Sue Williams-Ginner, Williams Enterprises, Ron and Jacque Wuttke, Mary Stobber, and Eileen Altenburg.

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