

Dear W.C.,

My husband and I are going through one of the most difficult times of our lives. Last year, I had to leave my job to care for my mother after she suffered a stroke. Losing my income was a major setback, but we did everything we could to make it work. We cut back on our expenses, used our emergency savings, and sacrificed wherever possible so I could be there for my mom when she needed me most.

Just as we were trying to regain our footing, my husband was seriously injured. He required surgery followed by eight weeks of rehabilitation and recovery, leaving him unable to work. Without his income, we quickly fell behind on our bills.

Today, our situation has become overwhelming. Our car is about to be repossessed, and our utility service is on the verge of being disconnected. My husband is expected to return to work next week, and we are grateful for that opportunity. Unfortunately, we don't even have enough money for the gas he needs to make the long commute to his job.

We have always worked hard, paid our bills, and taken care of ourselves. Asking for help is something we never imagined we would have to do, but right now we have nowhere else to turn. Any assistance would mean more than words can express.

Dear Readers,

This letter is a reminder that hardship often arrives without warning, even for people who have done everything right. This woman made the loving decision to care for her mother after her stroke, placing her needs above their own. Then before they had a chance to recover financially, the husband's injury created another unexpected obstacle.

Life often has a way of testing our strength in unexpected ways. Caregiving responsibilities, lost wages and medical emergencies have a way of exhausting even the most carefully planned budget.

When I spoke with this woman and her husband, I was happy to hear the husband's recovery was going well and he would be returning to work as planned. This family would just need our help to bridge the gap that this crisis had caused.

The first step would be to provide the assistance needed to prevent the repossession of the husband's vehicle needed for work and his family's activities. The husband was relieved when we added gift cards for gas that would ensure he had reliable transportation to allow his return to work. We also prevented the pending disconnection of their utilities and paid a sum for the upcoming month, ensuring the family had access to air-conditioning, lights and household appliances.

As we talked, I could hear the relief the wife and husband felt knowing they would not lose everything before the husband could return fully to his job. The woman seemed hopeful that her mother would soon be improved enough so she would not need fulltime care and she could return to work. With both the husband and wife soon returning to work, I was relieved to know this family was moving in the right direction. This was a temporary setback that would benefit greatly from our helping hand up.

With our assistance this family will have the breathing room needed to regain financial stability while their income is restored. We are often reminded that poverty is often not due to poor choices. Sometimes it is due to the choices we have to make for the loved ones that count on us for support during their time of need. Sometimes it is due to an accident out of our control. Sometimes it takes families who have worked hard their whole lives, from living comfortably to facing utility shutoffs and empty bank accounts. Your continued support allows us to respond to these unexpected hardships every day in our communities, allowing many families just like this one, to find hope and the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

Thank you for caring, thank you for sharing our mission, and thank you for helping us bring hope to those who need it most.

Please join us Saturday, July 18, 2026, 1-3 PM at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 715 Wisconsin St. in Lake Geneva, WI for the Community Conversation “Grounded in Walworth County: 3 Stories of Connections”. The Time is Now to Help Founder Sal Dimiceli will be speaking, along with Lloyd Sineni and Laura Rosol, MD, about local financial hardship, health, and human service concerns at this free event presented by Common Ground Lake Geneva. We hope to see you there!

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, Diane Flohr, Kathleen and Brian Hurdis Charitable Fund, Jeff Martin, Paper Dolls, Lake Geneva Area Realty, HomeTown Auto Exchange, George and Leah Rozhon, William and Patricia Antti, Richard and Lindy Urbach, William and Jean Isaacson, Stephen and Kathleen Abernathy, Michael and Kathe Beach, Church of Jesus Christ LDS, John and Rita Race, Kelleher Family LLC, Aileen Hodges, E. and Barbara Andres, Stanley Roelker, Beth Pizzo, Carol Hinnners, Doris Wiechmann, James Dyer, 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: The Tierney Family in memory of Joan Tierney.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org