

Dear W.C.,

You helped me about five years ago with my rent and utility bills when I was going through one of the most difficult periods of my life. I wanted to let you know how much that assistance meant to me.

At the time I was at my lowest, recovering from an accident and living on peanut butter sandwiches and ramen noodles, I will always remember how relieved I felt after speaking with you and receiving help to get my life back on track. I remember you being kind and respectful when many others were not.

Today I find one of my dearest friends facing hardships of her own. She is a loving grandmother who recently became the caregiver for her two young grandsons after their mother, who has struggled with addiction for many years, relapsed and began drinking again. One day she simply brought the boys to my friend's home and left them there, leaving this grandmother to suddenly become their full-time parent.

My friend lives on her social security income and has very little left over at the end of each month after paying for rent, utilities, medications and other expenses. The unexpected expense of raising two growing young boys has placed an enormous financial burden on her. The boys arrived with little more than the clothes they were wearing. Their clothes were dirty and worn, and they appeared malnourished and frightened. My friend and I were both heartbroken by the condition they were in.

She worries constantly about not being able to provide enough food, proper clothing, and shoes for the boys. Recently she made the difficult decision to delay paying her rent and utility bills so she could hire an attorney to help her pursue legal custody. She fears that if she falls too far behind on her bills or loses her housing, she may not be approved to care for the boys permanently.

These children need stability, love, and security, and right now their grandmother is the only person able to provide it for them.

I immediately thought of you and how The Time is Now to Help helped me rebuild my own life. My friend is a good Christian woman and willing to do anything to keep her grandsons safe. I am praying that you may be able to help them find a way through this difficult time and keep this family together.

Dear Readers,

Thank you for taking the time to write this letter for your dear friend. It is always a blessing to hear from individuals who have received help in the past and have gone on to rebuild their

lives. One of the greatest rewards of this charity work is learning that an act of assistance during a difficult time can have a lasting impact.

Across our communities, many grandparents find themselves stepping forward to raise their grandchildren. Many are living on fixed incomes and suddenly find themselves buying groceries for growing children, purchasing clothing and school supplies, and providing the love and stability that every child deserves. They do what needs to be done because family comes first.

This grandmother was provided with the assistance she needed to successfully allow the loving home these boys required. We helped with several months' rent, paid her overdue utility bill, and provided gift cards for clothing, shoes, food, and other daily necessities. We also provided two twin beds when the grandmother shared, she was sleeping on an old air mattress while the boys slept in her bed.

The grandmother recently contacted me to joyfully share that the court agreed that she should have full custody of her two grandsons and will now be receiving the state assistance that her daughter had been taking in the past. With this news and the assistance we provided, the future looks bright for this grandmother's continued commitment to her grandsons. These boys are fortunate to have a grandmother willing to open her home to them and fight for them. Our assistance, along with the love and stability she is providing them today, will have a lasting impact on the men they become tomorrow.

Thank you for providing brighter days ahead for this family, and many others turning to us for assistance.

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, Diane Flohr, Lake Geneva Area Realty, William and Susan Mackey, Carolann Lippert, HomeTown Auto Exchange, George and Leah Rozhon, Gene and Linda

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Memorials: The Tierney Family in memory of Joan Tierney.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org