

Dear W.C.,

I never expected to find myself in the position of needing to ask for help. Just one year ago, I believed I was in a happy marriage. We weren't living extravagantly, but we were able to pay our bills and provide for our three children. I never imagined that everything could change so quickly.

Three months ago, my husband unexpectedly left me and our three children. I discovered the painful truth about an affair he had been having with a coworker. What I learned next was even more devastating. Before leaving, the two of them had emptied our checking and savings accounts, run up our credit cards and intentionally failed to pay our rent and utility bills.

After ten years of marriage, I had never had a reason to distrust my husband. I trusted him to take care of the bills and manage our finances and believed we were building our future together. Suddenly, I was left trying to understand how the life I thought we had could disappear almost overnight. I went from believing my family was secure to facing the possibility of eviction and having our utilities disconnected. I have a job, but I was never the primary income earner in our household. There is simply no way I can catch up on the bills and debt my husband left behind while also providing for three children.

When I contacted my husband's employer while trying to find him, I learned they never returned to their jobs. At this point, neither his employer nor I know where he and the woman he left with have gone.

I can honestly tell you that none of this was expected. Looking back, I realize I believed his lies and stories for more than a year. He never acted as though his feelings toward me had changed. I had no reason to believe that the man I had trusted for ten years was planning to leave our family and leave me to deal with the consequences.

I have had to put my humiliation, anger and heartbreak aside because my children need me. They are hurt and confused, but they still need to be fed, clothed and housed. They need stability and reassurance at a time when their entire world has been turned upside down.

Starting next week, I will begin a second job. I am hopeful that we will eventually locate my husband so that I can serve him with divorce papers and begin the process of seeking child support and restitution. Until then, the responsibility for keeping our family together rests entirely on my shoulders.

I don't know exactly how I am going to get through this, but I know I will do everything within my power to keep my children safe. If that means putting my pride aside and asking for assistance, then that is what I am doing. I would be incredibly grateful for any help you could offer my family during this difficult time.

Dear Readers,

When we received this mother's request for assistance, we knew that helping her family meant addressing the immediate necessities that were putting them at risk. She was working and was willing to take on a second job, but she needed help getting through the mess that had been left behind by her husband's dishonest actions.

The Time Is Now to Help was able to pay their overdue rent and an additional month, helping prevent her family from losing their rental home at a time when the children had already experienced so much upheaval. We also provided assistance with her overdue utility bills, helping keep the family's electricity and gas utilities connected. Just as importantly, we provided gift cards for groceries and other daily necessities. For a mother trying to provide for three children while suddenly living on a single income, being able to purchase the food her children need is something that can bring an enormous sense of relief. The gift cards also gave her the ability to purchase some of the everyday necessities they had been doing without.

We knew we could not solve every problem this family was facing. We couldn't erase the debt that had been left behind or change the trauma that happened to this mother and her children. These would be addressed when her husband was found someday. What we could do was help stabilize the life they were trying to make for themselves. By helping with rent, utilities, food and other necessities, we were able to give this mother something she desperately needed: time to breathe and an opportunity to begin putting her family's life back together.

We were reassured that this mother was not sitting back and waiting for someone else to take care of her family. She is working, preparing to take a second job and pursuing the steps necessary to establish financial support for her children. Our assistance simply helps bridge the gap while she works toward a more stable future.

That is why your support for The Time Is Now to Help matters. Because of our generous donors, when a family in our community finds itself facing an unexpected crisis, we can step forward and provide meaningful assistance with the basic necessities of life.

This mother never expected to need help. None of us knows what circumstances tomorrow may bring. A job loss, illness, separation, unexpected expense or family crisis can change someone's circumstances much faster than most people realize. When that happens, we believe people should not have to face it alone. We are grateful to everyone who makes it possible for The Time Is Now to Help to provide this assistance to our neighbors in need.

Thanks to the Family Legacy Summer 2026 \$50,000 Matching Grant donors every donation is being matched dollar for dollar, doubling your donations and the poverty relief we can provide. Because of you, lives are changed and futures are made brighter.

Health & Happiness, Love & God Bless Everyone, Sal

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A Very Special Thank You: Family Legacy Donors, Family Foundation, Kunes Family Foundation, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Paul Ziegler, The Harold and Bernice DeWeerd Family Foundation, Paper Dolls, Dale and Gail Folkers, J.P. Morgan Charitable Giving Fund, Susan & Philip W. Hagenah Family Fund, United Way of Walworth County, Lake Geneva Area Realty, James and Cathy Beierle, Carolann Lippert, Dr. Mark and Cynthia Brower, John and Rita Race, Bob and Millie McCormick, Beth and Jody Rendall, Timothy and Margaret Kumbier, Russ Perkins, Gene and Linda Krauklis, Joyce Pagel, Paul and Elyn Schroeder, Ronald and Jacqueline Kuchenbecker, 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: Robert and Connie Sevick in memory of James L. Gulla.

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