

Dear W.C.,

I am one of many senior citizens who still needs to work full time to make ends meet. I was employed by a family business for the past 10 years, but six weeks ago, the business closed. Since then, I have been unable to find another job. It seems that not many employers are willing to hire someone my age.

I am trying to remain positive and hopeful, but unfortunately, a positive attitude is not going to pay my rent and utilities this month.

My husband passed away five years ago after a lengthy illness. During the final month of his life, I cared for him around the clock. Just days after his funeral I returned to work and continued doing everything I could to support myself.

I had hoped that, over time, I would be able to build an emergency fund for unexpected expenses. But no matter how hard I tried to save, there always seemed to be another expense that prevented me from getting ahead.

Just last month, my car needed more than \$1,500 in repairs. Then I needed a root canal. To make matters worse, my rent was recently increased by \$250 a month. One unexpected expense after another has left me with nothing left to fall back on.

At this point, I not only cannot pay my bills, but I am struggling to afford gas, food and other daily necessities. I have worked hard my entire life, and it is very difficult for me to admit that I need help. I am doing everything I can to find another job, but I am afraid that, without some assistance now, I could soon find myself facing homelessness.

Could you please lend me a helping hand, so I don't have to add homelessness to my list of problems?

Dear Readers,

Sometimes, despite our best efforts, life can become overwhelming. A job disappears. A vehicle suddenly needs an expensive repair. Medical and dental bills arrive. Rent increases. Before you know it, the financial cushion you worked so hard to build is gone.

When we spoke with her, it was clear that this was about much more than unpaid bills. She was frightened. She was worried about where she would live. She was worried about how she would buy groceries and put gas in her car. And perhaps most difficult of all, she was

struggling with the realization that, after a lifetime of working and caring for herself and others, she needed to ask someone else for a helping hand-up.

The Time Is Now to Help was honored to lend her that helping hand. We paid her overdue rent and utilities, and provided gift cards for groceries, gasoline and other daily necessities. Our hope was not only to help her keep a roof over her head, but also to relieve some of the immediate financial pressure she was undergoing so she could concentrate on finding her next job and being able to make a fresh start when she did.

At The Time is Now to Help, we believe that poverty relief is about much more than just paying a bill. It is about being there to help our neighbors in need when circumstances become too much to handle. It is about reminding our neighbors that needing help does not mean they have failed. Sometimes it is the beginning of better opportunities in the future.

We networked with our contacts and finally, the woman's hard work, excellent references, and positive thinking paid off. A family business admired her job experience and maturity enough to offer her a job that would more than cover her expenses and offer additional benefits. This was the better opportunity she had prayed for and visualized for a very long time.

Behind every request for assistance is a real person. A person with a story. A person who has worked, loved, struggled, suffered and hoped. Sometimes, all that person needs is someone to care enough to help them through a difficult season and remind them that they are not alone.

Thank you for allowing us to be the organization that can say, "Let us help you through this." Your generosity allows us to turn compassion into action and provide hope when someone may feel that there is nowhere else to turn.

Thanks to the generous donors who made the Family Legacy Summer 2026 \$50,000 Matching Grant possible, every donation is currently being matched dollar for dollar. That means your generosity is doubled, allowing us to provide twice as much poverty relief to our neighbors who are struggling. Every matched dollar can help put food on a table, keep a family in their home, provide transportation, keep the utilities on or give someone facing an unexpected crisis the opportunity to breathe a little easier. Because of you, lives are changed, hope is restored and futures are made brighter.

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, 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, Church of Jesus Christ LDS, William and Jean Isaacson, Michael and Kathe Beach, First Baptist Church, E. and Barbara Andres, Mary Ann Kmiec, Rita's "My Salon", John and Rita Race, Marvin and Claudette Daniel, Aileen Hodges, Stanley Roelker, Duane and June DeYoung, George and Sandra Murphy, Doris Wiechmann, Kelleher Family LLC, Virgil and Sharon Wuttke, 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 Peter Schumer Family in memory of Janette Maxwell. Elaine Beck in memory of Bill Beck.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org