

Dear W.C.,

I lost my apartment over the summer after I went through two knee surgeries. I took off work to have my knee repaired only to have several complications and required a second surgery. Then I got an infection that put me back in the hospital. It was a nightmare that is finally over but unfortunately left me homeless. I missed so much work I was let go. I am living in my friend's camper, but it is difficult without running water or heat now that it is so cold. This does not help my lingering knee pain either. I began a new job last week after I was finally cleared by the doctor to return to work. I had hoped I could save enough money for a security deposit and first month's rent, but it will take so long I am worried I cannot last any longer living like this. I am praying you will be able to help me as at this point you are my only hope.

Dear Readers,

After speaking to the woman on the phone we set up a time to meet. I wanted to see her living conditions for myself. I already had a motel room set up for her to move into as the day was cold and the evening was promising to be even colder.

I knocked on the door of the run-down trailer sitting on a vacant lot. The door was answered by a petite older woman. I did not need to go inside to see the poor living conditions and feel the chill in the air as she had run out of propane to heat the trailer several days prior. The dim interior was lit by candles. I told the woman to load up her belongings in her car and gave her the address of the motel. Once she was moved into a warm environment, we would meet at a café to talk.

Several hours later we sat across a table, and I encouraged her to order a hot meal. She looked much better once she ate and enjoyed a cup of coffee. The woman admitted it had been over a month since she had eaten a hot meal as the trailer was not hooked up to any electric and she could not afford to purchase propane tanks. While she was grateful for the use of the trailer it was barely habitable for anyone to live in.

We talked about the woman's previous job and her long recovery from her knee surgery. Everything that could have gone wrong with the first surgery had gone wrong. The woman spoke excitedly about her new job and her relief at finally being able to go back to work. We went over all her expenses and some of her lingering debt. She had an outstanding utility balance that would prevent her from future utility connection. She also struggled with food and had been utilizing the food pantry when she could. The problem was she had no means to cook or refrigerate her food.

With her temporarily housed in the motel room that had a kitchenette she was happy to finally be able to store and cook food safely. We would provide her with gift cards for food, toiletries and other daily necessities. I also learned she had been hiding her car to prevent its being repossessed. She worried constantly about the possibility of losing her transportation. Having reliable transportation was the only thing in her favor at this time.

We would provide three car payments to prevent the loss of her car and bring her up to date on her payments. I told the woman we would pay her overdue utility bill so once she found housing she could afford, she would not have to deal with that obstacle. The woman cried tears of relief as she shared how she had felt like she would never recover from this difficult chapter of her life. I listened as she told me the challenges she had already overcome in her life and I told the woman she could overcome anything, even this most difficult chapter.

With our assistance paving the way, this woman is now living in an apartment she can afford, driving her car she had been in fear of losing, sleeping on a comfortable new bed we provided, eating nourishing food cooked in her own kitchen. She continues to work and thrive at her new job. All this was made possible thanks to all of us working together to alleviate the pains of poverty for hundreds of people each year.

Thank you for helping us continue to provide poverty relief throughout our communities. Please donate at this time as all your donations will be matched by the Fall 2024 Helping Hand Up \$50,000 Matching Grant, doubling your donation. Thank “You” and God Bless “You”.

Health & Happiness, Love & GOD Bless Everyone, Sal

Please Help: There are many coming to us in desperation. Our good fellow creations need our compassion. Together we make a big difference. Make checks payable to: The Time Is Now to Help, P.O. Box 1, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. The Time Is Now to Help is a federally recognized 501(c)3 charitable organization. You will receive a tax deductible, itemized thank you receipt showing how 100% of your donation was used for providing poverty relief.

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.

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Memorials: Peggy Cardiff in memory of Dorothy Cardiff and Marty Hansen.

Prayer Chain: The power of prayer and positive thoughts comes from the true healer,

our Lord answering our prayers. Please pray for healing for the following people: Brian, Mike, Sylvia, Megan, Kayla, Maria C., Judy, Scott, Annie, Marilyn, Brandon, Helen, Dennis, Mary, Joseph, Jordan, Jean, Tom L., Dr. Peter, Matthew, Pam E., Jenene B., John S., Patricia H., Wendy, Eric, Anthony, Mary, Charlie, Tom P., Christina, Billy, Mike, Cheryl, Bryan E., Betty, Ellie, Concetta, Cheryl, Kirubel M., and Wanda L.

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