

As we once again approach the holiday season, and especially one of my favorite holidays Thanksgiving, I would like to share with you some of the things I am grateful for this year.

The most recent thing I am thankful for is that we have successfully matched the Fall 2024 Helping Hand Up \$50,000 Matching Grant. I am filled with gratitude for your generosity that is being used to provide assistance to the poverty stricken in our communities. I am also grateful for the continuing matching grant opportunities and the amazing good works our matching grant donors make possible. Our hearts are filled with gratitude and love for everyone's generous support.

So far in 2024, over 300 people have been sheltered from the pains of homelessness. I am thankful we were there to help the single mother with two children who while recovering from a lifesaving medical procedure was also faced with eviction. This is just one family of many helped this year due to medical emergencies and life threatening illness made it impossible to continue to work. I become emotional when I think of the elderly fellow creations we were able to shelter after enduring evictions and some due to apartment fires. If you have ever seen an elderly person sleeping in their car on a cold evening, you know the tears I am struggling to contain. The many working poor families with children come to mind and I am grateful for the motel rooms we were able to provide and the eventual move to apartments they could afford after we provided unattainable security deposits and first months rent.

I am grateful for the lifesaving transportation assistance we have provided. Twelve cars have been purchased this year for working poor families and single mothers. These vehicles mean the difference between being successfully employed and able to support your family or a continual spiral into the depths of poverty. Twelve cars have received all new tires to ensure safe travel for jobs and medical care. Two wheelchair accessible vans have been provided to ensure our disabled neighbors are able to attend school, medical appointments, therapies, and family gatherings. Twenty cars have been repaired and many car payments were provided to ensure continuing reliable transportation. This transportation assistance is often times the key to breaking the cycle of poverty.

Being able to provide food for the hungry has been a blessing I am thankful for, for over 35 years. It was one of the ideals I founded this charity on in 1989. It broke my heart seeing children and senior citizens so hungry they were malnourished. Watching them eat their first hot meal in days with shaking hands and hunger so great they physically cannot slow down their intake, was a shock at first, and still hard to watch today. I am grateful for the \$43,000+ in food we have together provided so far this year to end hunger in our communities.

I am still smiling and grateful for the many who responded to our plea for the "Special Family". The transformations we have made, and are continuing to make for this very special young lady and her family, have been life changing. Every day her day began with being trapped in her bed until she could be lifted into her wheelchair by her brother. Now her mother can use a lift we provided to move her from bed to chair to bathtub, without risk of further injuring her back. They no longer worry about being behind in their rent or having

enough food on the table, thanks to the assistance we provided. Travel to school, doctor's appointments, therapy and family gatherings is a dream come true thanks to the wheelchair accessible van we were able to provide. While we continue to wait for the new custom wheelchair to be delivered, we have all been crying happy tears of gratitude for the lives changed thanks to all of us working together to end poverty.

There are so many other areas of assistance we have provided this year that I am thankful for. The 60 new beds provided to people recovering from homelessness, major illness, sleeping on floors. Many people were provided electric, gas and water utility assistance. The children provided school supplies, clothing and shoes. The toiletries and household necessities we were able to provide to senior citizens, working poor families, veterans, the handicapped and children. There are many good works I am grateful for in 2024. I will count these and all of "You" in my prayers of gratitude this year.

Thank you again for making the Fall 2024 Helping Hand Up \$50,000 Matching Grant a success! We will soon share with you where every penny was spent to provide poverty relief in our communities. We wish you a very blessed and Happy Thanksgiving.

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.

A Very Special Thank You: Kunes Country Auto Group, Paul Ziegler, Clarence W. and Marilyn Schawk Donor Fund, Jeff Martin, A.G. Cox Charity Trust, Linda West, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Paper Dolls, Dale and Gail Folkers, Thomas Morrissy, Thomas Getzen, Lynda Adas, Glenn and Diane Lemanczyk, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Chris Adams, Knights of Columbus Lake Geneva, Dr. Mark and Cynthia Brower, Joseph and Sharon Symoens, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Vanderveld, Scott and Patricia Plucinski, Robert Klaus, Robert and Shelly Hecht, Patricia Dahl, Timothy and Margaret Kumbier, James Sadler, James and Christine Lovell, David and Janice Busscher, Rita's "My Salon", Nancy Ferguson, Stanley Roelker, Beth Pizzo, all of our anonymous donors and ALL of you who support The Time Is Now to Help donation boxes. Anyone who would like a Time Is Now donation box in your business, please call (262) 249-7000.

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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