

Dear W.C.,

I have run out of options, and you are my last hope. My husband was abusive to me and then turned his anger and abuse on our children for the first time several months ago. I had tolerated his abuse for years because I had nowhere else to go, but when he became violent with our six-year-old and eleven-year-old sons I knew we had to leave. I have done everything I can to save for our first months rent and security deposit needed to get my own place. With me just starting a new job and currently living in my mother's senior housing apartment it will take me much longer to save that much than the time we have been allowed to stay here. I cannot jeopardize my mother's housing by staying here much longer. I have a restraining order against my husband and have not seen him since the evening he went after my boys. He was the only one working and supporting our family because he would not allow me to get a job. It will take some time to work out our financial arrangements and child support, but he has left the state, and no one has heard from him. We desperately need a place to stay right now. Please, I am begging for help and praying for a fresh start after years of stress and trauma.

Dear Readers,

After speaking to this mother, I learned more about the years of stress and trauma she was referring to. She had the medical records to back up her claims. Now that she was no longer living with her husband and had placed a restraining order on him, he had seemed to vanish. The mother said she had learned from friends and family that he had left the state with no plans to return. She breathed a sigh of relief, but this still left her financially unstable. He had even left the apartment they had rented after not paying his rent, and the landlord had left all their belongings at the curb.

Since this mother was looking for a fresh start, we would work together to make a plan. This included reviewing her budget and employment. She did not have reliable transportation since her soon-to-be ex-husband had taken their only good vehicle. The car she was driving was not worth the repairs it required. After further conversation, and confirmation from her employer that her job was stable, I felt she was the perfect candidate for the purchase of a reliable used vehicle.

We reviewed her rental options and found a decent two-bedroom apartment she could afford, with our assistance providing a security deposit and the first two months rent. This would allow her a few months to get back on her feet. We also would provide new beds, household necessities, winter clothing for the two boys, food, and gas gift cards. When I went over this list with the mother, she began to cry. Her crying soon became sobs of relief. I waited for the tears of joy and relief to pass before she could speak again. She shared how afraid she had been for her sons and herself throughout the twelve years of marriage she had endured. No one had seen the bruises hidden under her clothing or why she was so thin because her husband would not give her money to purchase enough food for the family. Instead, he had used his money to purchase alcohol. For the first time in twelve years, she was making her own decisions for herself and her children.

This mother and her two sons moved out of the grandmother's apartment just in time to prevent her eviction. The boys were happy to have a room with their belongings and actual beds, after sleeping for two months on the floor at the grandmother's apartment. We found a good used vehicle that would provide reliable transportation to ensure the mother stayed employed. Our assistance provided the fresh start this mother and sons needed to thrive over the upcoming months.

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. 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.

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, Thomas Morrissy, Thomas Getzen, Lynda Adas, Glenn and Diane Lemanczyk, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Chris Adams, Knights of Columbus Lake Geneva, Joseph and Sharon Symoens, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Vanderveld, Paul and Elyn Schroeder, James Shannon, Mary Dunbar, David and Carol Hunecke, John and Rita Race, Gregory and Kathryn Pryor, Doris Wiechmann, Patricia Jankowski, Dennis and Carol Gilhooley, James Dyer, John and Marian McClellan, Shari and James Loback, George and Lauretta Clettenberg, Joanne Zeasman, Sara Copeland O'Brien, Aileen Hodges, Daniel and Ruth Haak, Lake Como Beach Women's Club, M. Christine Larsen, St. Joseph's Congregation, Welch 4A Donor Fund, Carol Hinnners, J.N. Hackman, Virgil Wuttke, 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.

Memorials: Roger and Lynda Bohn in honor of Ron Sarna.

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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