

Dear W.C.,

I have been struggling to keep up with all my bills since I had to take an unpaid leave of absence from my job two months ago. I had to take this leave of absence due to my daughter needing debilitating back surgery with a very long recovery. I was caring for her and my two young grandchildren. She is a single mother and has no one else that can help her as she is recovering from her back surgery. I am behind in my rent and my car payment. I have been living with my daughter for the past two months as she needed around the clock care. I can continue to stay here but my biggest concern is losing my car. I need it to take my daughter to her medical appointments and I plan on returning to work as soon as she can care for herself and her children again. I have sold most of my belongings just to afford food, gas and help my daughter with her rent while she is unable to work. My young grandchildren are looking forward to Christmas and I do not want to disappoint them as they do not understand what we are going through right now. I heard about The Time is Now to Help years ago when you helped one of my neighbors and I am relieved to find out you are still helping people like us who have fallen on hard times.

Dear Readers,

I called this grandmother to find out more about their situation. With the high number of people turning to us for transportation assistance to maintain their employment, I did not want to find another person in need of a car due to it being repossessed.

When the grandmother answered her phone, she burst into tears when she heard it was our charity calling to help. The stress of the past few months seemed to have caught up with her as she shared with me the details of all her daughter had gone through to recover from her back injury due to a car accident years ago. After years of pain, she was finally recovering and able to enjoy life again.

That brought the grandmother great joy, but she continued to carry the weight of overdue bills and lack of funds for food and other daily necessities. We would review their budget, including the expenses for the grandchildren and daughter since they would continue to live together going forward. They had no income and the children's father had not paid his child support for the past year.

After going through their expenses I found several areas they needed help, not just the grandmother's overdue car payment. The daughter was behind in her utilities. Both women did not know where the next months rent payment would come from as they tried to stretch every penny for food, gas and hoped to be able to purchase a few small Christmas gifts for the children.

I learned the grandmother did not have a bed because she had been unable to move her bed. They also did not have any money for food or needed toiletries. When we reviewed her car the grandmother admitted it was in need of some maintenance so that would be scheduled. I went over the list of assistance with the grandmother, including a rent payment to the daughter's landlord, paying the daughters overdue utilities, providing a new twin bed, gift cards for food, toiletries, and gas for the car. The grandmother began to cry once more, but when I added to the list gift cards for Christmas gifts for the grandchildren she cried the hardest. She said, "I could never ask for children's Christmas gifts because I know these other things are important, but the happiness of my grandchildren means everything to me. Life is hard and I want them to have those few moments of magic in their childhood. They have seen too much pain already in their young lives." I could not agree more.

We hope you experience the magic of Christmas, and we thank you for the many gifts you allowed us to share with those in need 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.

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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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