

Dear W.C.,

I am a 62-year-old woman living with my daughter and her two children. My daughter was diagnosed with MS years ago and has been especially struggling due to flareups over the past year, so I am helping her with the children, cooking and cleaning, in addition to working full time. Right now, I am the only one with any income as my daughter applied for assistance but is still waiting to be approved. My daughter's husband died in a car accident five years ago, so it is just the four of us. We have no other family or friends to ask for help. I have been struggling to pay for the utilities and provide food for everyone. I went to the food pantry a few times but often they are open when I am at work, so it is not possible to go there. Please help us during this difficult time. I cannot bear the thought of my daughter and grandchildren losing their home while she is struggling to fight this disease.

Dear Readers,

I contacted this mother so we could discuss their situation in depth. There were a lot of questions I had about their current difficulties.

We began our long conversation with introducing ourselves and my routine questions about names and ages of people living in the home. The woman shared her daughter had recently celebrated her 38th birthday and the grandchildren were ten and twelve years old. The grandmother had moved into her daughter's small home. They had many expenses that they were struggling with. They were a month behind in their rent. The daughter struggled to pay for prescriptions for herself and expenses for the children. Their utilities were overdue. When the grandmother told me that she had been riding her bicycle to work in the cold due to the inability to afford gas, I knew they needed our help.

We reviewed their budget, and I could see the shortcomings. The daughter was unable to work due to her symptoms changing from day to day. Some days she could walk and other days her symptoms would flare up and she needed help getting to the restroom. The stress of their situation was not helping her have more good days than bad.

We talked about the mother's job and the possibility of a pay raise. She admitted she had not asked for one in years as she was nervous, but after I spoke with her and encouraged her, she promised she would ask for one over the next few days. We would help by paying their overdue high utility bill, their overdue rent, and providing gift cards for food, gas and clothing for the children. We also would pay off the grandmother's car loan, removing that monthly bill from their budget. This brought tears of relief to this hardworking mother as she was carrying the stress of caring for her very sick daughter, raising her grandchildren, working full-time and doing most of the cooking and cleaning. While she cried, she shared her fatigue and heartbreak with me. When we were done talking, she wiped her tears and

vowed to remain positive and strong for her family, especially now that the burden of poverty was no longer resting fully on her shoulders. We together would be there to help her with that burden and provide a helping hand-up.

Thank you for your support of the Ava Gable Memorial \$25,000 Matching Grant, a \$25,000 matching grant provided by the Carolyn J. Gable Foundation in loving memory of Ava Rose, Carolyn's cherished daughter. Ava Rose's spirit of kindness and light continues to shine and will be felt by all who are touched by this matching grant. Every dollar donated will be matched, providing \$50,000 to support programs that bring hope and healing throughout our communities removing the pains of poverty for our Fellow Creations.

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: Carolyn J. Gable Foundation, Family Foundation, Kunes Family Foundation, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Paul Ziegler, Wayne and Beverly Hilbelink, Bonnie Glennon, Anderson Moran Construction, The Gallo Family Fund, Joan Thompson, Mark and Erika Parise, Steven and Deidred Trumble, Jay and Karin Hiller, Heidi Salas, Jeff Martin, Edward Hechmann, Gerald and Cheryl Kuhn, Mark and Sandra Schmitt, John and Valerie Lincoln, Gerry and Kae Venema, Nicholas DeSanto, Chelsea Bryant, WA Imports, Barbara and Lee Zuzanek, Ernest Roy, Colleen Heffernan, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Daryl and Geri Braun, Doris Kushch, Dr. Mark and Cynthia Brower, Craig and Linda Halvorsen Umans, Margaret Rifken, Monroe and Birdeen Putnam, The Dan and Donna Casey Family Fund, Vanguard Charitable, Marshall Groom, James and Michelle Pody, Clara Berger, Barbara Rosin, Stanley and Margaret Muzatko, Carol Hinnners, James McConnell, George Rozhon, Gary Mueller, Shari and James Loback, Rick and Juanita Coleman, Anna Kiel, George and Laurretta Clettenberg, Big Bird, Doris Kranitz, James and Laurie Garecht, Vena Bodine, Barbara Buelter, Kathleen McGuire, 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: Dolores "Lor" Piotrowski in memory of beloved parents Gene and Lottie Piotrowski and best friend Martha "Dee" Valentine. Landon Petrie Jr. and Nancy Schwab in memory of Cheryl Jean Petrie. Deborah Lenchard in loving memory of Edward Dukie Lenchard.

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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