

Dear W.C.,

My husband and I have been living in my sister-in-law's basement for the past four months after being evicted from the home we were renting. We are finally getting our lives back together after one set back after another last year. My husband was in a car accident and seriously injured. On top of his long recovery and not being able to work, we also lost our only running vehicle. We could not afford to be fully insured so the insurance did not replace the car. That caused me to lose my job because I had no transportation, and I could not afford to pay for Uber and continue to ask people for rides. We were lucky to have a place to go but it has been difficult. My sister-in-law is ready for us to move out and so are we. Our sixteen-year-old son had to move in with my sister because there was not enough room for him here. We miss him so much. We are hopeful that with your help with a security deposit we will be able to move into our own apartment again. My husband is finally well and back at work full-time. I got a new job that has similar hours so we can ride share for work. We had to get a loan to purchase a used car, so we have transportation. I promise you we are trying hard and making sure we do not miss a day's work. Please help us become a family again with a place to call home.

Dear Readers,

I called the woman who wrote this letter sharing their current living situation. As we have already helped several people this year due to their current homelessness, living in cars or being evicted with nowhere to go, we were relieved to hear that while it was not an ideal situation, at least this family had a roof over their heads and a pending rental to go to.

The woman and her husband spoke together on speaker phone to me from the basement room they shared. They sent me several pictures to show it was indeed not ideal. There was a twin bed and an air mattress they took turns sleeping on as it lost air throughout the night. Their clothing and personal belongings sat in boxes piled around them. It was small and damp. They had a toilet in the basement but no running water for a sink or washing up. They all shared the one upstairs bathroom. The sister-in-law had already asked them several times to move out, but they had nowhere they could go, at least until they could save enough for a security deposit. I learned they had been paying the sister for utilities and purchasing groceries to contribute to the household. This in addition to the car they had to purchase for work did not allow them to save what they needed.

We talked about the accident that had caused the domino effect of events that led to homelessness and poverty. The husband had been working a double shift and fell asleep at the wheel while driving home late at night, running into a power pole. He had been hospitalized for several weeks due to his injuries and spent time in rehabilitation to recover his strength. It was a miracle that he was now back at work full-time. He was dedicated to his family and their goal was to bring their family together under one roof again.

Together we could help them achieve that goal. We went over their budget that included the apartment they had great hopes of renting and the car payment for the car they purchased due

to their need for transportation. They could afford this if they both worked. They reassured me many times that they would not miss any work or risk the loss of their jobs. Their motivation to have their son with them and be a family again was overwhelming.

We provided the necessary security deposit and first two months rent to get them on steady financial ground. We ordered a new bed for the husband and wife and one for the son. We provided gift cards for food, toiletries, and household necessities they would need as many of these items were lost during the eviction. Both the husband and wife cried tears of gratitude as we brought the life-changing assistance they so desperately needed. They are so relieved to finally have their own place to call home.

We cannot thank you enough for the poverty relief your donations have allowed us to provide. Please donate at this time as all your donations will be matched by the New Year 2024 Helping Hand Up \$50,000 Matching Grant, doubling your help provided to remove the pains of poverty 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 for more information, to read more of our past and current columns and/or to make a donation: [www.timeisnowtohelp.org](http://www.timeisnowtohelp.org)

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**Memorials:** James and Pat Herda in memory of the Lux Family. Delores Piotrowski in memory of beloved parents Gene and Lottie Piotrowski and beloved best friend Martha "Dee" Valentine. Robert Anderlick in memory of Jacquelyn Anderlick. Karen Aasen in memory of Richard Redell. Marga Burbatt and Sharon Warden and Family in memory of dear cousin and Aunt Eleanore Barth.

**Honoraries:** J.D. and Carla Olson in honor of the Livingstone and Olson Families.

**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., Sal, Betty, Scott, Annie, Marilyn, Brandon, Helen, Dennis, Mary, Joseph, Jordan, Jean, Tom L., Dr. Peter, Matthew, Pam E., Jenene B., John S., Patricia H., Ron K., Marian K., Judy, Wendy, Eric, Anthony, Mary, Charlie, Tom P., Christina, Billy, Mike, Cheryl, Bryan E., Ellie and Cornelia.

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