

Dear W.C.,

My mother and I moved in together last year because we thought it would help both our circumstances. My mother needed some caregiving after having her knee replaced and I needed help with watching my eight-year-old son after school. I am a single mother and do not receive any help from my ex-husband. Unfortunately, my mother's health has not improved, and I have become her caregiver until she improves. I have missed so much work due to her many medical appointments and with all the driving my car has needed repairs. My son needed another pair of glasses after his were broken beyond repair, so that was paid out of pocket. I had to pay for one of the car repairs so I could continue to get to work and the doctor's offices, but there is more work that needs to be done that I cannot afford. These expenses, on top of less time at work have caused us to fall behind in our rent. I don't know how we will get through the next few months without falling behind in everything. I am trying to keep it together so as to not worry my mom and son, but it is getting more and more difficult every day. I do not see a light at the end of the tunnel until my mom improves, so I am humbly begging for help out of this situation I find myself in.

Dear Readers,

I am often amazed by what most single mothers accomplish every day. Being both mother and father to a young son, and a caring daughter to a mother in need, on top of financially supporting everyone and completing household tasks usually completed by two adults, is more than most people undertake in a day. Add in the stress of unpaid bills, worrying about becoming homeless, and you get an idea of what this single mother was experiencing.

When I contacted this single mother, I found a woman who was strong and capable. When she began to tell me everything she had been going through, the tough exterior was soon shed, and the tears began to flow. She apologized for crying but I assured her she was safe shedding those tears with me. Who else did she have to share with how overwhelmed and stressed she felt?

After learning additional facts about her situation that were not included in her letter, and more about her mother's health including an extensive infection she contracted due to the surgery, we talked about her job and their budget. It was a blessing that both her employer was understanding about what she was going through. In a normal month this mother would get by with very little to spare, but they got by. With the extraordinary expenses over the past six weeks, and the reduction in income due to missed days at work, it would become more difficult to catch up with each passing week. I learned in addition to paying for her son's glasses she had also had to take him to the emergency room when he had come down with the flu. Her car needed new tires and an additional repair she could not afford.

I immediately arranged for her car to go in for service and new tires. We also would pay for three months' rent, her outstanding utility bill, and provided gift cards for gas and food. The mother again began to cry, as she felt the stress of poverty being lifted from her shoulders. The mother humbly tried to deny she needed additional help but when I explained she would need this to help her get through the next few months, she accepted graciously.

Thanks to our support this single mother, her son and her mother are all safe from the possibility of becoming homeless, utility disconnection and even hunger. Our assistance has provided the safety net that caught them just in time, thanks to "You" and the Family Foundation 2025 \$40,000 Matching Grant.

We hope you will take advantage of the Family Foundation 2025 \$40,000 Matching Grant as your donations will be matched dollar for dollar, doubling your donation and the assistance we will be able to provide. Thank 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: Family Foundation, Carolyn J. Gable Foundation, Kunes Family Foundation, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Paul Ziegler, Paper Dolls, Timothy and Brenda Wegge, Bonnie Glennon, Anderson Moran Construction, Michael and Mary Alice Deutsch, HomeTown Auto Exchange, Steven and Deidred Trumble, Barbara and Lee Zuzanek, Kathryn Drexler, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Dr. Mark and Cynthia Brower, Lake Geneva Economic Development Corporation, Gregory and Jean Marie Dexter, Mitchell and Nancy Venema, John Oregon, Roy and Vickie Terracina, Carol Feist, Mary Jane Feist, Tim and Margaret Kumbier, Karen Aasen, Kenneth Kelley, James Dyer, John and Cindy Schmidt, Francis Fish, Gregory and Pamela Peterson, Michael and Kathe Beach, William Antti, Aileen Hodges, John and Rita Race, Doris Wiechmann, Dennis and Carol Gilhooley, Delavan United Methodist Church, Russ Perkins, Alan and Constance Henninger, Duane and June DeYoung, St. James United Methodist Church Women in Ministry, Church of Jesus Christ LDS, 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: Bill, 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., Wanda L., Joan, Bruce and Andy.

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