

Dear W.C.,

I was recently hired as a property manager at a low-income housing complex, and I am noticing the great need for poverty relief among our residents. After getting to know our tenants, two of these people really stand out right now as they are struggling to have enough food and other necessities. I have lived in poverty before in my life, but I have never seen poverty in elderly people and the handicapped like I have seen here. There is such need, and they cannot seem to get any assistance elsewhere. There are many in need here but at this time I am asking for new beds for these two elderly women, food, personal products, utility assistance so they do not lose their housing, and furniture. If you cannot provide all these things, I understand but would humbly ask if you could at least provide new beds. Thank you for your consideration of these two wonderful women who have already endured so much in their lives.

Dear Readers,

I called the property manager and was saddened to hear about the demand for basic needs in the low-income housing building she managed. Most of the residents were elderly or handicapped, and nearly all of them did not have family to help them. They truly are the forgotten elderly I have seen so many times over the years.

The property manager and I spoke for a long time about the living conditions and all she had been doing to improve the conditions and morale of her tenants. She was a great asset to her employer and those they housed. She became emotional when talking about “Her people” as she called them. Her pay was not enough for her to bring food and supplies to her clients as she was a single mother with two children just trying to get by herself. But she was not afraid to ask for help where she saw it was needed most.

The property manager introduced me to Helen, an 82-year-old woman that had to leave all her belongings behind at her last low-income apartment due to an outbreak of bedbugs. They had a strict no used furniture policy in place at her new residence, and she was unable to even buy a bed. After two months of sleeping on a cheap air mattress on the floor she found her hip and body pain worse every day. She struggled to get up off the floor and had fallen several times already just trying to get out of the bed. She also struggled to pay her utility bill and had turned down her thermostat in hopes of saving money. When the property manager visited her last, she found Helen in her winter coat eating canned soup from the food pantry. Helen shared the physical pain she was enduring due to poverty, especially poverty in her senior years.

The next resident the property manager introduced me to was Eve. She is a 79-year-old woman who fell on hard times after having to spend her life savings over the past five years

caring for her recently deceased husband. After so many years of around-the-clock care she had hoped for some rest. That was not to be when she was evicted after her husband's death when she could not keep up with her rent at the senior apartment they had been sharing. Since she did not have any family or funds to move her belongings, she lost everything she could not carry. She met the property manager with a few boxes and a suitcase when she moved in a few months ago.

Both these women had recently been approved for housing but clearly could use some additional assistance. New beds would be the first items provided, along with bedding, towels, dishes, and other household necessities. We also would provide a small table for both women, so they had a place to dine. After speaking with Helen and Eve I knew they would benefit from lift chairs due to arthritis, back and hip pain. When I mentioned this to the women I received almost the same reaction, tears of happiness. Eve told me it was the first time she had cried tears of happiness in over six years, since before her husband had become ill and they had begun their battle to save his life. Who would have thought that a lift chair and our assistance would be what brought a smile to Eve's face again.

Volunteers were happy to deliver food and we also provided gift cards for groceries they could purchase when the apartment manager took them shopping several times a month. Helen and Eve also received assistance with their utility bills after they promised they would no longer suffer in the cold in silence.

We all thanked the property manager for all she was doing for not only these two wonderful women, but all the residents that had no one looking out for them until this caring woman came into their lives. Now they have her and all of "us" seeing their hidden pains of poverty and doing what we can to ease their suffering.

We have almost met the Family Foundation 2024 \$40,000 Matching Grant. This matching grant is allowing us to continue our good work by preventing homelessness, hunger, and suffering. 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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**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., 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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