

Dear W.C.,

I am in a tough spot right now. My car broke down last week while on the way to work so I did the bare minimum I could in repairs just to get it running. The full repair is much more than I can afford right now. Every day when I get in my car, I say a prayer it will start and cross my fingers. I rely on my transportation to keep a roof over our heads. Besides working full-time, I care for my mother since she had a bad fall two months ago and broke her hip. She has many doctors' appointments that I must drive her to. She cannot help me out financially as she struggles to get by each month as it is. I also have an adult daughter that just got out of an abusive relationship and has moved in with me. She has a five-year-old son who has special needs. I do not have beds for them, so they are sharing my bed, and I am sleeping on my couch. My daughter does not have any money as her ex took everything she earned, and she was lucky to get out safe with only the clothes on their backs. Is there any way The Time is Now to Help would be able to provide beds for them? With all the stress in my life the last thing I need to worry about every morning is if my car will start. It is only a matter of time the mechanic told me. If my car breaks down I will lose my job and then we all will be in trouble.

Dear Readers,

This is just one of many letters requesting transportation assistance that we have received lately. Over the past few weeks we have purchased a used car for a working poor family to ensure they do not lose their jobs and become homeless, we have had four cars repaired, and paid three car payments for a single mother that was injured and could not work for several months.

I contacted the worried woman to find out more about her situation. She had so many areas of concern I had to decide which one was of greatest worry. I knew that reliable transportation was of greatest concern as it would prevent job loss and allow access to medical care and therapies for both the mother and grandson.

When we spoke, the woman went over the quote that the mechanic had provided. It was quite extensive, but her car seemed to be worthwhile to repair. I would have her take her car to one of our trusted mechanics for their own evaluation.

Then we discussed the situation with her daughter and grandson. The relationship her daughter had been in had recently become quite abusive from what the mother shared with me and she had finally had enough when he had turned his violence on her son. The woman said, "At least my daughter finally had the good sense to get out before it was too late." I was relieved to hear the man was in jail for now.

I ordered two twin beds for the daughter and her son as they would share a room in the woman's apartment. We also provided gift cards for clothing, sheets, bedding, winter boots and coats. The woman was overwhelmed to tears over the help we were going to give her. She graciously accepted the assistance we were offering.

The following day her car was at the car repair shop, and we accepted the quote they provided. They told us we had gotten the car there just in time as they believed it would probably fail to start the next morning. Even with the discounted service the repairs were more than anyone on a fixed budget could afford. With providing these repairs we have ensured this woman and the family she supports and cares for will not suffer additional pains of poverty due to the loss of transportation and subsequently her job.

The following week the woman contacted me. This time to thank us again for all we had done and to give me an update. Her daughter has got a job and is now able to help with the household expenses as well. I felt good knowing we were instrumental in getting this family back on track.

We cannot thank you enough for supporting our charity work and the poverty relief your donations allow us to provide. Thanks to “You” we have met the Family Foundation \$15,000 Matching Grant. We will soon provide a breakdown showing where every penny was spent in providing poverty relief to those most in need.

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

A Very Special Thank You: Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Paul Ziegler, Kune’s Family Foundation, Family Foundation, Jeff Martin, John and Valerie Lincoln, Thomas Morrissy, Rita O’Brien, Paper Dolls, Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program, Chuck and Barbara Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schuberth, Kunes Country Auto Group, Martin Group, John Stensland and family, John and Peggy Tueting, Joseph and Sharon Jardas, Carolann Lippert, Ernest Roy, Peter and Rosalie Riewer, Michael and Christine Gunderson, William Antti, George and Laretta Clettenberg, E. and Barbara Andres, John and Rita Race, Aileen Hodges, Kathleen Gallagher, Richard and Deborah Schlitz, James Dyer, Charles and Kathleen Heinz, Gerald and Janet Christiansen, Judith Caputo, United Methodist Women, Patricia Jankowski, Raymond and Carol Wright, Ruth Behrens, William Brooks Ross, Doris Wiechmann, Duane and June DeYoung, Church of Jesus Christ LDS, Gary and Dolores Stelter, Clinton and Carol Sipe, Kelleher Family, Julie Valkanet, 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: Paul and Sylvia Baker in memory of LaVerne Umland. Steve and Lauri Tredinnick in memory of Eleanore Barth.

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, Alyce, Matthew, Pam E., Jenene B., John S., Patricia H., Darlene, Ron K., Marian K., Judy, Wendy, Eric, Anthony, Mary, Charlie, Tom P., Christina, Billy, Mike, Cheryl, Bryan E., and Ellie.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org