

Dear W.C.,

I desperately need help. My two children and I have been living in the homeless shelter for the past few months. I am grateful we had this place to turn to when we had nowhere else to go, but it is not home. My hope is to have us in our own apartment before Christmas, but I do not have enough saved for two months' rent and a security deposit, which is what everyone is requiring for me. I was hospitalized for a week due to an illness and had to have emergency surgery. It was a very difficult time. I could not work for eight weeks so I was only able to keep up with my car payments, but we lost everything else. We were evicted and I lost all our furniture except for a few small things I could fit in my car. The shelter has been very helpful and I am back at work full-time but the debt is still haunting me. I desperately want to set a good example for my daughters and show them what you can accomplish with hard work and determination, but that does not seem to be enough to get us back on our feet.

Dear Readers,

While the homeless shelter is a God send for many people in our communities, there are not enough rooms for everyone who needs them and for children it can be especially difficult. The alternative is often living in a car or a motel if you can afford it. The options in our area are limited so being able to help a mother and children move into their own apartment would also benefit someone else who is waiting for space at the homeless shelter.

I contacted the mother and we set up a time to talk at a quiet coffee shop. We would hopefully have enough privacy to go over her future budget and current needs. I had a list of questions ready when we sat to talk.

After a brief introduction we got right to work. The mother shared with me information on her job and reassured me about her job security. We began to put together a detailed list of expenses, these were few while living in the homeless shelter, so I suggested appropriate amounts to include for life outside the shelter.

We talked about the woman's two daughters, age 12 and 14. We both agreed they were at a very difficult age to share such close quarters and to be living in a shelter. The mother confided that her older daughter cried tears of shame many times over the past few months, which brought her own tears of shame. We talked about how the mother was using this time as a teaching experience as she honestly shared with her daughters how sometimes things that happen in life are out of our hands and we need a helping hand up from friends, family or a charity like The Time is Now to Help. Since this mother did not have any friends or family to turn to, it was our charity that provided that helping hand up.

When I was assured that the mother could afford the apartment that she and her daughters had chosen together, we would provide the required first two months rent and security deposit. We would also provide an extra month's rent to help this family even further. Before they moved in, we had new beds delivered for the mother and two daughters, and gift cards for bedding, household necessities, clothing and food. A table, chairs and couch were found

at a resale shop and delivered. A volunteer offered some additional pieces of furniture they dropped off to the woman and children when they heard about this special Christmas project. She even had an extra Christmas tree and ornaments she said she no longer had the energy to put up, but I am sure she just wanted to share it with this mother and her two daughters as I have never known this volunteer to lack in energy. When I told this volunteer about this mother's goal of getting her daughters a place to call home for Christmas, I had seen the tears she had tried to hide.

We cannot thank you enough for your donations that made this special assistance possible. Many tears of joy and gratitude were shed over the gift of a place to call home, new beds that are all their own, and a kitchen to cook Christmas dinner in. Thanks to all of "You" this mother and her daughters will have the best holiday possible. 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

A Very Special Thank You: Family Foundation, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Paul Ziegler, Kune's Family Foundation, Wayne and Beverly Hilbelink, A.G. Cox Charity Trust, Joan Thompson, Jim and Lynette Heimann, Donald Schwab, Timothy and Margaret Kumbier, Thomas Getzen, Chuck and Barbara Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schuberth, Kunes Country Auto Group, Martin Group, John Stensland and family, Linda West, Glenn and Diane Lemanczyk, Jeffrey Germanotta, Jay and Karin Hiller, The Dan and Donna Casey Family, Peter and Anna Vanderveld Foundation, Creek Road Community Church, John and Peggy Tueting, Thomas Morrissy, Joseph and Sharon Jardas, The Holmgren Charity Fund, Robert and Vienna Pasche, Michael and Phyllis Patek, Daniel and Ruth Haak, Beth and Jody Rendall, Beverly Mather, Janis Notz, Roland and Diane Schroeder, Mike Halverson, Tim Keiderling, J.N. Hackman, Maria Osborn, John and Marian McClellan, 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: Betty Hayles in loving memory of Lee Hayles. Melissa McDonald in memory of Eleanore Barth. Mary Jandris and the current nurses at Kaneland Schools 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