

Dear W.C.,

I don't know what to do. My car has died and I cannot afford the repair. I am already behind in my bills since being sick with Covid and then the flu for the past three weeks and not being able to work. I work at a school in the cafeteria and this year I seem to have caught everything the kids have going around. The last two bugs have really knocked me down as I am still struggling to have enough energy to get through the day. This year due to my rent and all expenses going up I've had to work two jobs, cleaning offices at night and on weekends. That was the only way I could make ends meet, but I am having a hard time due to my energy level being low since I was sick. I have fallen behind in our rent and car payment. Food is still so expensive as I'm feeding two teenage boys. I hope and pray you are able to help me get caught up on my rent so I can sleep soundly again and stop worrying about being evicted. Removing this stress would really help me get well again too.

Dear Readers,

We are doing our best to stay well as all of us at The Time is Now to Help work tirelessly not only throughout the holiday season, but year-round, to bring our poverty relief efforts to those most in need. We all need our health and energy to be able to do what we do.

I called this woman to see how we could help. It sounded like she has been through a lot lately and could use a helping hand up. Several hours later, after we ended our call, she would be crying tears of relief when she received the helpful hand up she so desperately needed.

We introduced ourselves and I could not help but notice she coughed and sounded winded. The mother stated she had been battling these symptoms since her bout with Covid and then the flu. She said, "Both my sons caught it but thank God they recovered pretty quick." Unfortunately, it would not be that quick for this hard-working mother. She told me how she had tried to return to her previous work schedule several times and each time it had brought a relapse in symptoms and fatigue. She broke down in tears of frustration over her inability to work her previous 60-hour work week. I tried to tell her that schedule was too difficult to maintain when recovering from an illness, but I could also see the increased prices of every day expenses had made that schedule necessary.

After four weeks off work, she was already severely behind on their bills. They ran short on money for food and daily necessities. The rent and her car payment were over a month late. She was unable to afford the car repair needed to provide transportation to work and had been asking for rides from other employees. The mother was beside herself with worry and stress.

We went through her budget together and I found several areas we could help to lighten her financial stress. We would pay the remaining balance on her car loan as she only had four payments remaining. We would make sure her car was repaired properly. We also would pay three months' rent to allow her time to regain her strength before returning to her 60 hour

work week. Gift cards for food, toiletries, and daily necessities would ease the food insecurity they were experiencing for the past few weeks.

The mother was quiet at first as she took in all we had offered her. Then I heard her start crying again. She said, "How can I ever thank you?" I told her about all of "You" and how you made our assistance possible. She cried even more tears of gratitude when she learned how many people cared about her and her sons. Thanks to your generosity to The Time is Now to Help, we have been able to give this mother a desperately needed helping hand up and remove the pains of poverty for her and her sons. Please donate at this time as all your donations will be matched by the New Year 2024 Helping Hand Up \$50,000 Matching Grant. 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

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Memorials: Robert and Linda Mylin in memory of Jerry W. Thompson. LuAnn Himebauch in memory of Edward Chart. Greg and Luann Himebauch in memory of Debbie Croff. The following donations are in memory of Eleanore Barth: Anna Kiel, Mary Meister, and Monica Prairie.

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.

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