

# Appeal

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have three children, ages 5, 8 and 12, and have worked steadily to provide a stable home environment for their family. It was a shock when Mr. B.'s job at a local store was eliminated. Although they are receiving unemployment benefits, the recent breakdown of their furnace has put a major strain on the family. This winter they could use some extra help to meet bills and make sure that the children have appropriate clothing.

**74** Margie and her two children left an abusive situation. Her estranged husband had agreed to make the mortgage payments on their trailer, but failed to do so. Consequently, she lost her home and had to move into an apartment. Housing is very expensive in her area, and her social services assistance will not cover the rent. She has put in several applications for work in the hope of being able to support her children and pay back bills. She is a loving and concerned mother trying to provide a stable home for her children.

**75** The probation department referred Beth to the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry. Her boyfriend received a violation for drug use. Beth had been trying to get him to move out or stop using drugs in front of her kids. He went wild, tore up the house, took the money and fled the state. She had food stamps, but no way to buy diapers for the baby.

**76** Jim requested assistance to purchase insulin for his wife. They have requested Medicaid but have a waiting period. Jim was laid off six weeks ago, but

his employer claims he stopped work a week earlier and is fighting his claim. Jim is sure he will collect unemployment or find another job soon. But meanwhile, he has no cash to purchase medicine for his wife.

**77** Both Ron and Jane work part time through a temporary employment service. They make less than \$5 per hour and get no benefits. They actually lost family income when Ron went to work, since the public-assistance grant they had to give up was more than Ron is now earning. When their landlord learned that Ron was working, he also demanded additional payment on a back balance, which is draining all of their "extra" money.

Both are very proud to be working, but often have no cash for non-food items and transportation. They are concerned about the effect their run-down house and neighborhood will have on the children, but can't save the money to move. Ron is thinking of quitting his job with Social Service approval and collecting benefits for awhile until they can afford to move.

**78** Dick is 21 years of age. He works part time at a fast-food place for minimum wage. When he was 11, his mother sent him to live with his father and stepmother. They divorced and his father left. Dick has been largely on his own since he was 15.

Dick has saved a little money to search for his mother, with whom he has had no contact since she sent him away. He arrived in Elmira to search for her, but the house in which they once lived has since burned down, and no one knows where his mother moved. Dick lost his bus ticket back home and needs help to purchase another. He

plans to go home, save more money and then continue his search.

**79** Al, a Native American, came to New York to visit a relative. During his stay, Al allowed his relatives to add him to their household for purposes of obtaining food stamps through the Department of Social Services. But he has since learned that his son in Rapid City, South Dakota, has become ill. When he asked DSS for travel assistance back home to Rapid City, DSS refused, saying that they consider this to be his "home" since he received the food stamps here. Al said he could arrange transportation to the Indian Center, if he could just get a ticket to Chicago.

**80** Bill and Nancy now live in a house Bill has rented for 16 years. Nancy is a patient of a psychiatric out-treatment program. Bill was injured a year ago on the job, and his doctor will not approve his return to work.

Because he is unemployed, Bill has fallen behind on the rent. When his landlord died, the landlord's wife hired a rental agent who wants Bill out so he can rent the house for more money. The agent asked Bill to make repairs on the house and was angry when Bill refused, fearing further injury to his back. Bill and Nancy can not come up with the necessary \$375 security deposit in order to move.

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