

From: Lt. Governor <LtGovernor@scstatehouse.gov>
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 12/2/2014 10:37:01 AM
Subject: FW: I need help!

-----Original Message-----

From: Nick [mailto:nickgrantham56@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 8:01 PM
To: Lt. Governor
Subject: I need help!

Name: Nick C Grantham
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Email: NickGrantham@msn.com or nickgrantham56@gmail.com
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My Life and Story:

I contracted polio when I was just about three years old. I survived but Mother Nature got in some good licks. I was left at that time with a bad/weak left leg, a curved spine, a weak right arm, and my right lung only operated at half capacity. I had to wear a long leg brace on my leg my whole life. All things considered at the time I survived in pretty good shape.

When I was around 9 I had to have surgery because my spine was curving more and more. The doctors said I would not live without surgery because I'd sooner or later bend sideways so much my heart and lungs would fail. So I had what they call a spinal fusion operation done around 1968. The results were good. I no longer continued to lean over. After the surgery I was able to return to public school and went on to graduate from then FMC now FMU in 1979.

After college I was lucky enough to get a job as a general accountant with a local company, Perfection Hy-Test a member of the Mormon Group out of Chicago. During my employment with the company I had to relocate to North Carolina and was placed in the position of Controller until August of 1989. The reason I had to retire was due to medical issues related to my having had polio, weakness and what seemed like a never ending case of pneumonia.

When I retired I returned to South Carolina to live with my parents. About six months later, during another case of pneumonia I was placed in the hospital and literally died that afternoon when my lungs stopped working. Obviously, I was brought back by a group of great doctors and nurses however I had to be placed on a ventilator and moved to a different hospital that was set up to deal with my type of case. After about a month it was determined I was not going to be able to live without a ventilator 24/7. I was released and came home to my parents on a vent in March of 1990.

Here I have lived at home since being placed on the vent. My parents and family have taken great care of me although it took its toll on them. I've seen my Mother pass on after a lifetime of caring for me. The last eleven years of my Father's life I saw him lay in bed unable to get up due to his disabilities. I cared for him as best I could along with help from a nurse aide/PCA and of course our family.

Now I'm alone, I have survived a lot in my days here on earth. 24+ years on a ventilator and either bed ridden or in a wheelchair the whole time. I am requesting help because my circumstances changed when my father passed away in November 2012. I had been living with my father since 1990 when I developed pneumonia and lost the lung capacity to breathe on my own. I am confined to a wheel chair with a ventilator attached that breaths for me. With my father's retirement benefits from the Army and both of our Social Security checks, we were able to meet our monthly bills. Without his income, I can't meet the monthly bills with just my Social Security Disability check. My goal is to stay at home instead of moving to a facility for ventilator patients. Since I have a weakened immune system, my doctor recommends that I stay out of hospitals and other medical facilities.

I need help with my monthly medical expenses not covered by Medicare/Medicaid and my utilities especially electricity. I've worked on my budget and cut everything I can cut but I'm still falling short. The way I have it figured I need \$473/month to make it. I have tried every government agency and I am at the limit. I do draw \$1515 a month in disability. I've tried the local charities no go.

Any help you can give me in any direction you suggest, besides giving up, will be greatly appreciated. I will use any money

or whatever for the stated purpose so I can stay alive and at home. My doctor, Dr. Kenneth Evans, has told me more times than I can remember that I need to stay out of hospitals and medical facilities because the germs floating up and down the halls will kill me within six months. Staying at home is the difference between life and death to me. it's hard to believe that just \$473 a month stands between life and death for me or any person in America. I've tried everything but i just can't find it on my own.

Please help me if you can, if you can't I understand, life is hard for everyone now days. I'm just trying to stay alive and at home with what dignity I have left.

If you do try to contact I pray you do, I am unable to speak with a voice, another condition resulting from polio. If you want to talk to me either email or write a letter is best for me but if you call via a phone, my brother Danny Grantham, will answer the phone most likely.

Thanks for your consideration,
Nick C Grantham.
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NickGrantham56@gmail.com