

NEW YORK'S 100 NEEDIEST CASES

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL APPEAL

These, Above All Others, Must Have Help Without Delay—They Are The First Call on Charity—To Many of Them Aid Means Life Itself



This Picture Is Given by Charles Dana Gibson as His Contribution to the Hundred Neediest Cases.

IN New York City there are one hundred cases which, above all others, require aid. They are the first call on charity. They should be considered first as Christmas time approaches.

For these Hundred Neediest Cases an appeal is made today. Their stories, related on this and the following pages, speak for themselves. Into them are written suffering and want; out of them can come salvation.

This is the fourteenth annual appeal for the Hundred Neediest. Thirteen times before, as Christmas came near, the call has gone out. And readers of THE NEW YORK TIMES have heard it and responded quickly and fully. The need this year is just as great; the response must be as prompt and as wholehearted.

For these are not the tales of professional alms-seekers. They are the simple annals of earnest, hard-working people bravely battling for a livelihood and overwhelmed in the struggle by accident, by sickness, by death.

Six leading charitable organizations have submitted from their lists the cases which careful investigation has disclosed to be most deeply in want. Out of these the hundred were selected. Throughout the appeal, as at all times, the privacy of the neediest is safeguarded.

The stories that follow need no apology, no embellishment. As they stand on the printed page they are drama itself—and always the tragic ending is unmistakably indicated. It is not a great deal that is required to insure a happy ending; yet that little is beyond the utmost power of the stricken people involved.

Splendid Generosity.

Shining chapters in the history of giving have been written in the responses to the thirteen previous appeals. Starting at \$3,630.88 in 1912, the amount contributed each year has grown until in 1924 it reached \$233,524.89.

So liberal was last year's giving that the fund was able, besides aiding the first hundred cases, to extend its ministrations to 248 others, or more than 1,400 individuals.

As these were lifted out of despair last year, so, this year, may another Hundred Neediest—and more—be lifted. There is Anna, little more than a child, who must earn for seven. There is Ethel, at a telephone switchboard, the wage-earner for six younger brothers and sisters while the father is far away at a sanitarium. There are the Boylans, back from their vain voyage home to Ireland in search of health for the dying father. There is little Carl, so treated in his five years of life that he is afraid of other children. There is Oscar, in the hospital, whose mother will never more play with him.

Care Throughout the Year.

Contributions to these—and they are only five of a hundred—work their missions of mercy throughout the year. They bring a Christmas cheer that is lasting; in many instances, it is a gift of life itself.

The amount asked is the estimated cost of bridging the gap of distress for those in need, carrying them over until they are able once more to support themselves.

Many givers have come to regard the Hundred Neediest fund as their special philanthropy and are listed, year after year. Among these annual contributors are many children, whose parents have impressed upon them the striking lesson in helping others which is found in these cases.

Still others, in growing number, find the fund a most fitting form of memorial and send their contributions "in memory" of dear ones.

The appeal is for large gifts and small. In past years contributions have taken many forms. In addition to checks from individuals, there have been gifts from schools of all sorts, from lodges and other organizations, from groups of employes, from clubs and parties.

No solicitation for the fund is authorized. The only appeal made is in the publication of the stories themselves. The contributions are voluntary offerings; each one that gives will experience the thrill that comes from helping a needy fellow-man.

One hundred per cent. of every contribution goes to the Neediest. Not one cent is deducted for office or administrative work, and no expense of any kind is incurred in disbursing the money. Every cent goes for food, clothing, medical attention and rent.

Checks should be made payable to the "Hundred Neediest Cases Fund." Contributions may be sent to The New York Times, Times Square, New York City, or to the organizations (listed above) that present the cases.

CASE 1.

Carl Is Cast Off.

Carl, 5 years old, was cast off by his mother when she married again. Her second husband was a widower with all the children he thought he could support, so Carl became the charge of a charitable organization. He is lonely and unhappy and seldom talks. He is afraid of other children, but will follow an adult like a shadow. He is undernourished and in poor health. He needs food, clothing and months of gentle, kindly treatment if he is to have a fair chance in life.

Amount needed, \$300.

Case reported by the State Charities Aid Association, 100 East Twenty-second Street. (Telephone, Gramercy 1454.)

CASE 2.

The Old Coachman.

Twenty-five years ago Jackson drove along Fifth Avenue, a stately figure, with florid cheeks and sweeping black mustache, a high silk hat and a big-buttoned coat. He despised the "tinpots" that belched fire and smoke and broke down every few blocks. Nobody could tell him that those things had come to stay. Jackson stuck to the horses. He went out when they went out. In his prime he was a coachman for private families. The greatest humiliation of his life was the first time he was replaced by a chauffeur. It happened to him again and again. He was too old to learn a new trade. When private coachmen were no longer in demand he drove open barouches for hire by those who fancied riding in such vehicles for a lark. As he approached 70 he was earning less than enough for him and his aged wife to live on. Recently he became too feeble to work at all. Their savings melted away and the couple received a dispossession notice. They packed their few belongings and waited to be put out, but a little temporary help tided them over. They need more help to save them from the poorhouse.

Amount needed, \$630.

Case reported by the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, 105 East Twenty-second Street. (Telephone, Gramercy 7060.)

CASE 3.

The Father Is Far Away.

Four-year-old David asks hopefully each morning, "Is my Daddy coming home today?" His young mother shakes her head but smiles bravely as the eager expectancy dies out of his little face. David's father will be away a long time at the big hospital where he is fighting tuberculosis. As a metal worker he put aside a tidy sum for a rainy day, but when illness came to him and to little David, too, the savings melted, and now there is nothing. Helen, 7, is too young to help. Ten-month-old Peter is sickly and needs extra care, so that his mother is unable to go out to work. She does laundry work at home, while "Daddy" worries about his family and is lonely without them. If they are assured of help while he is away his recovery might be hastened.

Amount needed, \$1,080.

Case reported by the Charity Organization Society, 105 East Twenty-second Street. (Telephone, Gramercy 4068.)

CASE 4.

A Gray-Haired Clerk.

Dan's hair is nearly white and he is a little slow in his motions, although he is only 55. He was a clerk in one firm's employ for twenty-five years. A year ago the management changed, he was dropped. He has not been able to get a position. Having a touch of heart trouble, he needs care so that he may keep in condition to work at all. Dependent on him are his wife and a son, 14. The boy's plans for college have been put aside. Next year, when he reaches working age, he must go to the rescue of his family. They require help through this critical year ahead.

Amount needed, \$600.

Case reported by the Catholic Charities, 477 Madison Avenue. (Telephone, Plaza 0543.)

CASE 5.

A Telephone Girl's Task.

Ethel, 17 years old, works at the switchboard in the daytime and helps her mother at night. She is the only wage-earner in her large family. For fourteen years her father, a mixer in a flour mill, had not missed a day's work, but a few months ago he suddenly became a victim of his occupation. He is now away in the country under treatment for tuberculosis. Jimmie, 14, and Eddie, 12, runs errands after school and still are unable to help Ethel very much with the support of the family. The other children are Clara, 10; Judie, 8; Marie, 5; and John, 1. Their mother earns part of the rent as a janitress. The rest of her time is taken up with cooking, sewing and caring for her children. They have

