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THE NEEDIEST CASES
EDITORIAL

A Lesson in Giving

When Alonzo Cobb's mother got sick, he quit his consulting job to care for her and in early 2003 they moved from New York to Florida. For more than a year, he fed her, bathed her and clothed her, until her death.

At 57 years old and armed with years of experience in finance and market research, Mr. Cobb tried to go back to work. He applied for jobs that matched his résumé, and had no luck. He was willing to work for a lower salary or in a position with less prestige, but everyone said he was overqualified.

"They were afraid that when a better job came along, I'd jump ship," Mr. Cobb explained. "But I said, 'I've been looking for a year and a half. I'd appreciate it if you'd tell me where that better job is!'"

When he was turned down for a job as a telemarketer, he decided it was time to leave Florida. He moved in with his son in Virginia where he continued his search.

While he was there, New York City Teaching Fellows, a program that recruits people from other professions and elite universities to work in city schools, responded to his application and asked if he would come in for an interview. He arrived here with his suitcases and about \$150 in his pocket and went straight to the Community Service Society of New York, a beneficiary of The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund, hoping they could point him toward a shelter.

They did much more than that. The society's staff found Mr. Cobb a place to live at a home for war veterans — he served in Vietnam — and a job temping while he waited to hear about the teaching position. Mr. Cobb got the job and now works as a high school math teacher. The Neediest Cases Fund helped him move into an apartment close to the school and helped cover his expenses

while he trained for his new job. He is now also studying for his master's degree in education at night.

All the money donated to The Times's Neediest Cases Fund goes to seven local charities: the Children's Aid Society; the Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service; Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York; Catholic Charities, Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens; the Community Service Society of New York; the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies; and the UJA-Federation of New York.

To help, please send a check to: The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund, 4 Chase Metrotech Center, 7th Floor East, Lockbox 5193, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11245. You may also call (800) 381-0075 and use a credit card, or you may donate online at nycharities.org/neediest.