

Who Cares What They Say About Single Moms!

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By Teri Worten

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Even in today's sophisticated society, single parent families are often stigmatized and thoughtlessly perceived as not entirely as functional as two parent families. Most single moms can verify how such of a stigma seems to linger over our heads like some dark, ominous cloud. For instance, men assume because we have children, we are desperate for husbands, schools believe us to be operating with a disability and very few churches have created ministries exclusively for us.

I could go on.

By some, our families are viewed as abnormal, incomplete or fragmented. Our homes are called broken and are indirectly associated with producing defective or maladjusted children. The sad reality is that the majority of the people who raise these criticisms have had limited exposure with successful single parent families and are narrowly interpreting so called research written by people who know little about us or the human side of our families. Allow me to be among the first to tell you that contrary to popular opinion, most single moms succeed wonderfully at raising healthy, happy well-adjusted children. In numerous categories, our family types outshine our two parent counterparts.

By no means am I glamorizing single parenting as an ideal family situation. Two-parent families do create a continuum of support invaluable to healthy youth development.

Nonetheless, the story doesnt end there.

Our families, however, do possess some specific, undeniable strengths that effectually enable us raise healthy, well-developed children. Our one-parent families tend to create a less troublesome environment than that of some of our two-parent families. For example, parents in a distressed two-parent family are often overwhelmed with maintaining a healthy marriage and can easily overlook the emotional and developmental needs of their children. Likewise, two parents in emotional duress inadvertently model an unhealthy, undesired model of family life in plain view their children. Growing up

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in such an atmosphere can influence harmful patterns and cycles of broken relationships throughout generations!.

On the other hand, single parent families don't fall victim to such pitfalls. Ideally, we can engineer stability and emotional wellness within ourselves without the added worries connected with or caring for a spouse. In short, all we have to worry about is ourselves! Within our homes, our children see no arguing or witness power struggles between the two authority figures.

As a result, many single parent homes are better equipped to provide a relaxed, fun home atmosphere for children to grow, develop and thrive. It has been stated that children of healthy single parents frequently acquire competencies and valuable life skills that prepare them to be productive, independent adults. Also, if functioning well our families tend to be closer and cooperative with one another.

Undoubtedly, our family structure does have its fair share of challenges, but none of them are fatal. Yes, ideally a child should have two healthy, well-balanced parents but it doesn't always work out that way. So we must accentuate the positive and go on to excel as mothers, flourish as women, and produce healthy young people despite being single and despite the prejudices against our family types. So, hold your head high and embrace who you are and where you are during this "single parent" season in your life.

Teri Worten is a freelance writer as well as the founder of the online contemporary magazine for single moms and all women – Gotta Be Me Girl.Com! You can visit her site and read more articles at

Scholarships For Single Moms

By Wendy Sorenson

As a once single mother myself, I know exactly how hard it is to juggle work, education, and children at the same time. I had two young children infant and three years old, I was working full time and attending college, all the while raising my two children on my own. Sounds tough don't it. Well it was, it was not easy by any means. However, I knew that a college education was the only way I was going to manage raising children on my own. Scholarships for single moms certainly helped out a lot. Just because you are a single mom, does not mean you cannot further your education and enter your chosen career field. However, it might mean that affording higher education is not a probability at the moment.

Therefore, you will want to look into scholarships for single moms. There are a wide variety of scholarships available specifically for single mothers looking to attend a college or university. The trouble is finding them, the internet can help you in that area, as well as the financial counselor at the academic institution.

Some scholarships for single moms include the Raise the Nation Scholarship for Continuing Education. Raise the Nation is a completely non-profit organization that works to provide scholarships and grants

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to single moms. The scholarship for continuing education is specifically for single moms who are looking to obtain a higher education, but have run out of resources. Especially if they have been denied other assistance and grants.

Other scholarships for single moms include the Women's Opportunity Award from Soroptimist International of the Americas. This program is specifically for single mothers and women looking to improve their lives by furthering their education. The award can be used for tuition, textbooks, transportation, and childcare. There are awards from \$3,000 to \$5,000. In addition, upon receipt of the award, every person receiving the award immediately becomes eligible for a finalist award of \$10,000.

The Soroptimist award is available for any women able to demonstrate proof of being the head of household within their families, providing the bulk of the support financially. Furthermore, they must also be currently attending a learning institution or accepted to one, in order to qualify. Each women must possess a need financially, not have earned any previous degree, and reside in any one of the nineteen territories and countries within the member areas.

Wendy Sorenson is a professional writer and has written articles for many websites that include
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