The Hardships of Single Moms During a Pandemic

BY LIA TSVETANOVA

NOV 25

Women have it hard. Juggling multiple responsibilities all while the pandemic is surging. Not only that, but the struggle to support a family has become more of a challenge, especially for single mothers.

Statistically more women have enrolled in college and at one point they overhauled the men in the workplace. But, nowadays, they have no other choice but to quit and focus on their homelife.

It has taken a toll on mothers all over the country whether they are working from home or have no job. Men are paid more at every education level, so for single moms it’s hard to keep up.

As Covid-19 continues to spread across the world, we have no idea when everything will go back to normal. How will mothers bounce back from this?

We first heard from Ann Montgomery, a single mother of one, who is unable to work due to the pandemic. “It has seriously affected my life.” One of her biggest worries is school closing. “I can’t start working if school closes, I’d have to quit my job immediately!” Her daughter, Romina, just started 4th grade and some kids have already gotten sick. Montgomery explains how some parents aren’t able to help their kids with school and projects, simply because of time.

Social life is an even bigger issue. “The pandemic doesn’t allow us to go out, let alone help my old mother,” Montgomery exclaims, “I must keep myself safe for the family.”

Every day at exactly 11:00am, Montgomery goes grocery shopping for her mom, Emilia. She’s a 90-year-old woman, who has almost lost her hearing. “If I lay sick, who’s going to take care of her or my daughter?”

She feels like a prisoner inside her own home. Locked up, worried and anxious about survival. “We cannot make long-term plans. We just take it day by day.”

Jordan Matsinger is a new mother. Her daughter, Ryder, is 7 weeks old and very spirited. A substantial struggle for her is not being able to take her daughter to places. Outdoor spaces are not suitable for a child who can’t even wear a mask yet. “I really can’t take her to food stores or the park… anything a normal mom would do with their kid.” Now, her whole life is focused on her daughter. “I don’t have time to myself at all.”

Matsinger brings up the point that she was pregnant for most of the time through the pandemic. “Best experience of my life.” She didn’t have to worry about working, she received money from the government, and no one was allowed to touch her. “My family wasn’t allowed in the hospital, so I got 3 days of relaxation.” With a big family that is extremely involved, it’s good to social distance.

I, lastly, got in contact with Erica Calderaio, who gave great detail about her life as a mom during Covid-19. She juggles work, housework and schoolwork with her son, Gregory. “I’ve never spent as much time with my kid.” Each morning, they wake up and do school. “I never had to teach him and I never thought I would have to.” Mothers nowadays have another chore: learning and teaching lessons to their kids. Calderaio goes to work which leads to Gregory missing some school. “I’ve never had to worry about work and school balance.”

Before the lockdown, when her son was in school and she didn’t have a job, Calderaio was able to go out and see her friends, but everything changed drastically. “I have Gregory all day and all night and by the time he goes to bed, I’m exhausted.” Having multiple responsibilities makes a person weary. Calderaio explains that she does make plans with friends but when the time comes, she has to cancel. In the middle of our phone call, she was interrupted by her son, “Sorry, I can’t even have a phone conversation,” she laughs.

Calderaio and Gregory have a strong bond and they love each other dearly, but being around the same people, frustration comes into play. “All morning we’re arguing about school, about getting dressed, about eating…” Most days, when he’s done school, Calderaio either has to go to sleep or to work overnight. She expresses her disappointment about not being able to have fun family time. “Not only that, I don’t even have time to eat!”

Single mothers all around share similar struggles, but they show no sign of giving up. Through even the hardest of times, moms inspire us to keep working hard and keep pushing. Nothing is ever too much or too hard for them.