

Embracing the new reality

By **Melanie Hennessey**
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With the new year comes everyone's focus on resolutions and how they want to improve themselves. As I sat there on New Year's Eve contemplating what I want to do differently in 2015, it dawned on me that I'm actually pretty happy with who I've recently become: a work-at-home mom.

While us moms are usually divided into just two groups— working moms or stay-at-home moms— there's a lesser-known third group out there of women who are creating non-traditional work opportunities and setting their own schedules while being at home for their children.

When both of my kids started school this past September, I discovered I wasn't quite ready to hang up my stay-at-home mom hat like much of the world expected. I lost count of how many times I was asked, "So, are you going to get a full-time job now?"

You see, I made a major decision four years ago to give up my full-time journalism job to be at home with my babies. It's a choice that definitely raised some eyebrows, and I knew I was risking the chance of never working full-time in this competitive field again. But it was the right



The View From Here

choice for us, and I don't have any regrets.

So as September and school time neared, and the pressure to "get back out there" turned on, I did look to see what was available in today's job market. As my desire to be there for my kids wrestled with my passion for journalism and obvious benefit of a full-time income, I even applied for a few full-time jobs.

But alas, they weren't meant to be. I didn't let it get me down as I believe that everything happens for a reason. Instead I turned my attention to seeking more freelance work that I can do from home, and fortunately the assignments began flowing. As I'm wrapping this column up in the wee hours of the morning because my daughter was home sick today, I can see clearly why I was steered down this path.

So this year, my resolution is that I won't let society's commentary on the fact I'm "still" not part of the full-time working world bother me, or make me feel like I'm any less valuable than all of the hard-working mamas out there. Instead, I'll embrace this new reality that I've been blessed with.

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