

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1217 More Dads Are Staying at Home

Did you know that more and more fathers are staying at home to take care of children, as well as aging parents? Did you know that society still hasn't fully embraced the issue of dads at home, while moms are off to work, being the bread winner? I'm Jerry Roberts, and we'll dig into this next, on The Extra Point.

Bloomberg news service is out with a story that stay-at-home dads are on the increase. In the U.S. the number of dads taking care of kids and parents is still relatively small, though rising. Officially, the number is shy of 250,000, but the real figure is far higher.

Bloomberg suggests the more accurate number for stay-at-home dads is 2.1 million, or around 18% of all stay-at-home parents.

They go on to speculate that this considerable figure may partly explain the *Great Resignation*, and that a large segment of working-age men in the labor force have chosen to stay home and accept different responsibilities.

No doubt, the pandemic accelerated this trend. The high cost of day care for kids and elder care for parents also drove up the numbers.

When you combine financial benefits with the idea that a family member would be providing care for loved ones, that makes it an easier decision. Those are significant advantages, but there are also negatives.

Stay-at-home dads have discovered what stay-at-home moms have known forever, that providing care for kids and possibly elderly parents can lead to burnout. Days are long, and there's always more to do.

thelearningdadblogger.com writes that going to a job provides a clear line between the workplace as where you toil for a living; and home, where you rest. If you are a caregiver who spends most of every day at home, those lines get blurred.

One way to deal with this is to find work you

can do from home, in the hours you have available. This could be some kind of service you can provide without having to be present at a physical workplace, or starting a home-based business.

When I lived in California in the late 1980s, one of my neighbors was a stay-at-home dad. It was a time when most people thought men who did that were just lazy. Today, there remains a social stigma attached to the role.

His wife was in management at one of the big movie studios in nearby Burbank, and he was a freelance graphic artist. She earned much more than what he made, so they decided he could design from home and take care of their two toddlers. The decision was good for him, good for his wife, and great for the kids.

When my son was born, we were publishing Directions magazine, and I moved my work out of the office and set up at home. He was going to be my first and only experience in raising a child, and I didn't want to miss it. I was able to carry my full workload, and still share the daily role of raising him with my wife. It has been the best experience of my life.

I don't know how many dads in Guam are full-timers at home delivering care to kids and perhaps parents, but there are probably more than we might think.

Stay-at-home parents are a link to another era, the way raising kids used to be. Their value can be critical to a child's development. Moms and dads who do it, we salute you.

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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