



I love my...



Simple

"I know that it's the simple stuff that creates happiness. I'm a waitress at a small family-run restaurant, and one of my 5-year-old daughter's favorite things is tagging along with me: She sits down with the regulars and draws them pictures, or she grabs a rag and helps me clean my tables (she enjoys this more than I do!). We love reading and coloring and playing in the park together—mostly on the monkey bars. In the evenings, Parker watches cartoons and I catch up with friends on the Internet, and once a week we enjoy popcorn-and-movie night. Parker and I can't always get everything we want, but we have everything we need, and I feel so lucky to have my little girl. I can't put a price on this happiness."

Jessica Hadder, 30, Louisville, KY

Average American mom

"I'm a stay-at-home mom to four kids: My oldest is in college, and my youngest is in kindergarten! I volunteer on the PTA and for my political party. I cart children around, clip coupons, and count on other moms for support. On occasion I yell and I burn the candle at both ends—just like every other mother I know! I find safety in numbers, and it's beyond priceless to me to be able to relate to other women going through the same worries as me about jobs and kids and getting everything done and still having a minute (or a bit less) to have a conversation. Sharing with other moms has saved my sanity more times than I can count."

Joy Bowes, 37, Richmond, VA



PIONEERING

"I moved on my own from New York to Bangladesh and have started an eco-friendly resort. We're trying out new construction techniques and new business practices to help the local area. I love my life because my schedule is so free and flexible and I'm not tied to a computer all day. I get to travel to remote villages and meet people who have never met a foreigner before, I get to play with goats and build with mud, I have tons of candlelit dinners (due to frequent power outages!), and I'm creating a business that will protect the natural and cultural heritage of this very special place. Whether I'm figuring out how to buy a water buffalo, making toiletries from plants, or designing glassware, it's so satisfying to use my creativity every day!"

Kristin Boekhoff, 34, Dhaka, Bangladesh (formerly of New York City)



life!