

supporting *Single Parents* with cancer

community impact I

By Kim Tarnopolski,
Sponsored By Parker & Sons

No one wants to hear the words, "You have cancer." The alarming statistic is one out of two people in the United States is likely to receive this news. Those words inject fear and worry into a family. If you are a single parent, the diagnosis can be terrifying.

In 2006, Michelle Singleton (32) was a single mom of four children and diagnosed with cancer. Her childhood friends, Jody

Farley-Berens and Andy McCandless, sprang into action. They made meals, cleaned her home and paid a bill or two all in an effort to "lighten the load." Out of these efforts, and the realization that practical resources for single parents with cancer were non-existent, Singleton Moms was born.

Their programs include Singleton Pockets which allocates a small stipend per month towards a household bill. Singleton Kitchen, in partnership with Dream Dinners, provides well-balanced, pre-prepared family meals. Bare Necessities allows families to stock up on the most needed household items and the Care Team Cleans comes in once a month for a thorough cleaning of the home.

"Cancer can be lonely and it can be hard and struggling. I found Singleton Moms and they made it easy to accept their help. I could definitely use a hand with someone coming over to help clean my house. It's very humbling, but they make it feel very comfortable. They also surprised us with gifts for Ava on her birthday and Christmas. It's a nice touch." shared Kara, a recipient of Singleton Moms' services.

Ahwatukee resident, Sandra Franks, learned of Singleton Moms several years ago and has been supporting the charity ever since. "Being a single parent myself, I could only imagine the overwhelming news if something happened in my own family. I was so touched that some really amazing ladies saw a need in our community and set out to fill that gap. I love the practicality and how the organization thinks of everything, so the moms and dads can focus on healing and spending time with loved ones."

In October, Sandra had the opportunity to share Singleton Moms with the members of 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun. Her story touched their hearts and Singleton Moms was selected for donations totaling \$11,100. This donation will immediately fund services provided to local Singleton Moms in need.



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