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## Help for Stay-at-Home Moms turned Job Searchers

In today's economy, many stay-at-home moms (aka homemakers) are having to turn in their loads of laundry for a spot in the corporate jungle. Job searching in itself can be an overwhelming task for anyone, but it can be especially daunting for women who have been MIA from the workforce for several years. Below are some tips to make this process a little less intimidating.

### Fill in the Gaps

Part of the reason that homemakers are intimidated by the thought of job searching is because they feel that employers won't understand the gaps in their resumes. Be sure to list all of your former "paid" jobs, but don't forget the unpaid jobs as well. This could include volunteer work both in and out of the home. Have you been the PTA president at your child's school? Served on the board of a local community fundraiser? List these positions. Also, don't be afraid to list the occupation of "homemaker." Call it what it is, and avoid terms such as "domestic goddess," etc.

### Don't Underestimate Your Skills

Many women re-entering the workforce make the mistake of thinking that their time as their family's CEO doesn't count as "real" work experience, but it does! In fact, a good portion of your at-home skills can carry over into real resume builders. What stay-at-home mom doesn't have fantastic organizational skills, as well as the ability to multi-task? Also, managing a household shows that you have **management skills**, as well as the ability to work well with different personality types. Are you the one who pays the family's bills? Explain on your resume that you have experience working within a budget. Don't discount the strong working skills you have just because you have been using them at home instead of at a paying job!

### Network

This is about as natural as it gets for women! By nature, women are social beings, and seem to be aware of what's going on in other people's lives, more so than men. So be sure to utilize this skill and talk to friends about your job search. Tell everyone to keep their ears open for **job openings!**