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10 Things

That Make Working Mothers Great Role Models

- 1. Ability to Prioritize.** “As a working mother, this has been my No. 1 objective. You have to juggle the demands of your job and your family simultaneously. I have learned over the years that I am never going to get it all done. I write everything down and try to follow my list for the day.”
- 2. Leadership Drive.** “I have been in property management since graduating college in 1990. I worked my way up from leasing consultant and had always set my sights on a leadership role. I find it very encouraging to see more female executives, although I think we need to see a stronger presence on the national front.”
- 3. Mentor Qualities.** “I hope that I have mentored other working mothers throughout my property management career. I always tell other women that it can be done. During my 19-year career, I have had three daughters and have dealt with the demands of being a wife, mother and business-woman. At times, it is overwhelming, but I have always tried to work for companies that believe in a work-life balance.”
- 4. Financial and Educational Strength.** “My career allows my family to have a sound financial future through the benefits and peace of mind of a solid 401(k), college funds for my daughters and tuition reimbursement. In addition to my Bachelor of Science degree, I have been able to pursue my CAM and CAPS designations through NAA.”

- 5. Capacity for Compassion.** “I believe that working mothers have a great sense of empathy, making it easier for them to relate to the demands of their staff and residents. I know when I need to be tough and when I need to show empathy.”
- 6. “Adroit” (Resourcefulness).** “This is a term we use a lot at McKinley Inc., and it’s a huge part of what makes me successful. We all have to adapt to ever-changing situations. Each day holds new and exciting challenges. How you approach them makes all of the difference in the world.”
- 7. Strength of Self.** “I don’t mean this in the physical sense, but in the mental sense. I have to exhibit strength when I make business decisions in the best interests of my staff and communities. I also show internal strength to manage the entire process.”
- 8. Flexibility.** “At McKinley Inc., flexibility is one of our core values and a big reason I came to work for them. They are family-friendly.”
- 9. Patience.** “It is truly a virtue. It is important to exercise patience when interacting with my team, my family or myself. To take the time and care to fully assess each relationship is so important. This is something that I work on each day, so I continuously improve.”
- 10. Listening Ability.** “Active listening is critical in the business world, but also within family dynamics. To fully hear and understand what a team member or loved one is saying opens up a different perspective when dealing with conflict or trying to accomplish tasks.” ■■■

If you would like to be considered for a future *End Points* column, please contact Kerry Sullivan at 703/797-0678 or kerry@naahq.org.



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(From left) Cecelia’s husband Bruce, daughter Olivia, Cecelia Ford, and daughters Charlotte and Madeline.