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How Being A Surrogate Showed This Mom How Strong Women Can Be

“They are fierce and bold and determined to keep trying.”

[By Taylor Pittman](#)

For a mom in Australia who has been a surrogate and has donated her eggs, helping others welcome children into their families has shown her the true strength of women.

[Melissa Holman](#) has been a [surrogate](#) twice, once using her eggs and once using the intended mother's. She has also been an egg donor for 17 other babies, including four sets of twins. Holman told The Huffington Post that her surrogacy journey has been “both hard and extremely satisfying.”

She has also learned how strong women can be, and wrote about her appreciation for “the sisterhood” in a Facebook post that blogger [Constance Hall](#) shared on her [page](#).

“While supporting women through [infertility](#), I am constantly amazed at the strength, resilience and determination of these women,” she said. “Most of all, their endless capacity to love and care for their sisterhood.”



"A few weeks ago I gave birth to a baby boy. This is me holding him.

He was perfect- a screaming newborn mess, lifted off my stomach and put gently into his Mother's loving arms.

Those arms were not mine. She's next to me in this picture.

I'm a surrogate, and he was the second baby I placed in another mother's arms.

Being a woman is so much more than having children. But for many women, being a mother is the most important and satisfying role that they will ever get to play.

Mothers are often expected to do it all and make it look easy. But it's not easy.

I've learned it's not always simple to become a mother. 1 in 5 couples have some issues with their fertility.

I fell pregnant with my children easily. It never occurred to me that it might not be so easy for everyone. While working as a nurse, one day I came across a woman in tears. She was devastated after yet another round of failed IVF. All I wanted to do was fix it for her.

I first donated my eggs to a woman who had been trying to conceive for 13 years.

18 children have now been born using my donated eggs.

Last week I sat through a university lecture on feminism. Perfect timing. A bra burning crash course on the incredible things we women can achieve when we come together.

While supporting women through infertility, I am constantly amazed at the strength, resilience and determination of these women. Most of all, their endless capacity to love and care for their sisterhood.

I now understand how similar we all are.

Just everyday women, who love other women. I see the fear, the sadness and yet the hope and excitement etched on their faces as we make plans- often after a long journey of multiple miscarriages and repeated IVF attempts. Their dreams of cuddling their child seemingly closer. Knowledge that joining a mother's group or doing the school run could soon be a part of their story.

They are fierce and bold and determined to keep trying, even when they are scared and feel let down-over and over. For many, their perseverance paid off. Now they're Mums who get a rainbow macaroni necklace on Mother's Day just like I do. But it wasn't easy.

In all these women, donors, recipients, those who never conceived... I found the meaning of strength. Resilience. And love.

Maybe you can't change the world. But you can give the world to someone, and change their life."

- Mel Holman, Queen

In her post, Holman shared a photo that shows her holding a baby boy she had recently given birth to. This marked the second time she had been a surrogate.

"He was perfect — a screaming newborn mess, lifted off my stomach and put gently into his Mother's loving arms," she wrote. "Those arms were not mine. She's next to me in this picture."

Holman, who has three kids of her own, wrote that while watching women experience problems with fertility and learning about their past miscarriages she also learned how tough these women who were once strangers could be.

"In all these women, donors, recipients, those who never conceived ... I found the meaning of strength," she wrote. "Resilience. And love."

Holman told HuffPost she originally wrote the post for International Women's Day, but Hall, whom she described as "all about strong women," shared it online about a week later.

"I hoped it would promote causes close to my heart, egg donation and surrogacy — which is altruistic and has a shortage of donors and surrogates in Australia — and might encourage a few to look into it," she said. "It has. I'm really happy about that."

When asked how her surrogacy and egg donation journey has changed her, Holman replied, "In more ways than I ever thought possible really."

She had never known much about fertility problems until she learned that someone she worked with was having difficulty becoming pregnant. Later, as she began meeting similar women who were looking for donors and surrogates, she was moved by their stories.

"They fight really hard to have what I always took for granted," Holman told HuffPost. "I admire and respect their strength and courage. I also love when women look out for each other. The sisterhood is a beautiful thing. For me, it's taught me strength and gratitude for what I have."

Though it hasn't been easy (Holman had multiple miscarriages while being a surrogate), she said with confidence that her experience has been worth it and that she has no regrets. In her post, she wrote that she feels especially happy thinking about the milestones that these "fierce and bold and determined" women will experience as mothers.

"Now they're mums who get a rainbow macaroni necklace on Mother's Day just like I do," she wrote.

The HuffPost Parents newsletter, [So You Want To Raise A Feminist](#), offers the latest stories and news in progressive parenting.