In honor of Mother’s Day, SpaceCoast Living set out to find some amazing moms throughout Brevard County. With so many women to choose from, we had to ask ourselves, “What exactly makes a great mom?”

Does she balance a successful career with family? Help out in the community? Raise a child with disabilities? Foster and adopt homeless youth? Instill a solid work ethic and stress the importance of education? Or is she simply a positive role model for her kids?

It should come as no surprise that inspiring moms along the Space Coast are busy doing all of this and more.

We’d like to introduce you to just a few of them.
MELBOURNE BEACH
Founder/executive director of the M.O.R.G.A.N. Project
Mom of Jordan, 23; Morgan, 11; and B.J. Taylor, 18

When their youngest son, Morgan, was diagnosed with a rare form of leukodystrophy, doctors warned Kristen and Robert Malfara that they would never see his fourth birthday. While trying to remain optimistic, Kristen Malfara felt she needed to prepare.

“I’d seen other families who would lose their child and lose their focus,” she said. “The M.O.R.G.A.N. Project was going to be my lifeline.”

Doctors were wrong about Morgan, who is now 11 and in the fifth grade. Now, Malfara’s “lifeline,” the M.O.R.G.A.N. Project, has turned into a blessing for thousands of other families.

“I couldn’t figure out why I was given the honor of being Morgan’s mother. It took me a long time to figure it out, but then I realized it was to do good for other people in his name,” she said.

That she has. Through fundraising events like her annual Turtle Splash (May 5), Malfara has provided $12,500 grants to 18 families of children with disabilities and has provided thousands of families with free medical equipment, resources and referrals. Her round-the-clock work as a disabilities advocate even earned her a $20,000 grant and a spot on Montel Williams’ television program.

Just hearing her story of hope has changed the lives of other parents in similar situations.

“That I could inspire another parent to be proactive for her child rather than just sit back and accept the inevitable,” she said. “Little moments like that make it all worthwhile.”