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WTNH is a local TV station from Connecticut in the North Eastern part of the USA. This news clip aired on November 17, 2020.

WTNH News8

Boomerang Kids: Young adults moving back in with their parents amid the pandemic

Transcript:

Host: Tonight, here in Connecticut there are a whole lot of homes that are more crowded than they were before this pandemic¹ started. Right now there are more adult children living back with their parents in this country than at any time in modern history. Boomerang kids. And when grown kids come back home, there are some big adjustments.

5 **Ann Ballard:** The college student? It's been a challenge.

Host: For Ann Ballard and Dave Golembeski 2020 was supposed to be about starting a new life together in the home they just bought in Wallingford, but when the pandemic hit, life shifted. The empty nest filled up again: Two kids, a boyfriend and a cat, all coming home to ride it out.

10 **Ann Ballard:** It took a while to adjust, yeah, because we were used to being empty-nesters, I guess it's the term we're going to use here, because, you know, we were just adjusting to moving in with each other because we had never lived together.

Dave Golembeski: We had no plans, we had no preconceived ideas², and I think we adjusted very well. I think everybody did,... I think all the five of us did.

15 **Host:** This family is not alone. As of June, most young Americans between 18 and 29 – that's fifty-two percent – are back home living with their parents. That's more than during the Great Depression³.

Laura Saunders: What it does is, it really changes roles and expectations.

Host: Doctor Laura Saunders is a family therapist with *Hartford Healthcare*.

20 **A father:** I talked to some friends. This is a situation in my house too. "How is it with the kids back?" And he said, "You know what it's about? The dishwasher! Put the stuff in the dishwasher!" It's the simple chore things. Is there a strategy? How do you approach that as a parent to tell your kid, "Hey, put this stuff in the dishwasher!". What do you do?

Laura Saunders: So, I think it's about clarifying expectations, and really that takes on-going communication. When it's just the adults, the parents in the house, they have a set of

¹ coronavirusepidemien

² *preconceived ideas*: forestillinger

³ *the Great Depression*: dyb økonomisk krise i USA i 1930erne

25 expectations for each other that have been communicated pretty regularly. Now it's going to
take re-setting those expectations and clarifying communication so that we understand what
each person is expected to do.

Host: Ann and Dave have carved up their home into small separate workplaces. They say
navigating⁴ Zoom-calls in different time zones has been tough, and there's a money-impact, too.
30 A full house means bigger bills, the water bill quadrupled⁵.

Dave Golembeski: I'm cheap. It's like I think of the electricity bill. And, you know, it's like... so
that, so that can... I don't know... It doesn't ease up, but it's something your mind is full of.

A father: What about financial responsibility? Should parents say, "Hey, Junior, you're back here
now. You owe us a slice of this money".

35 **Laura Saunders:** Especially, if these young adults are working, there is a reasonable expectation
that they would contribute financially to the household. And parents can make decisions
whether or not they really need that income to help offset⁶ bills, or they take it as a mini savings
plan and they save up that money for their young adult.

Host: But, despite the tight quarters and the bigger bills, Ann and Dave say this time has been
40 oddly special, and when it's over, they say they will miss this unplanned time together.

Ann: I don't want them to leave. I... I really enjoyed having them here, you know. But, at the
same time, it will be nice to get back to our lives.

Host: Financial experts say it's important for parents not to let kids moving back in blow up their
long-term financial goals. This could be a life lesson to talk about money with your grown kids,
45 explaining that every hour spent on this situation, is one less hour that goes toward retirement.

(2020)

⁴ (her) håndtering af

⁵ firedoblet

⁶ betale