

What Does Mother's Day Mean to You?

Written by Interviews by Jessica Rush and Julia Swem Photographed by Cassandra Tomei
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AFM asked five of the Valley's favorite moms—and their adoring children—what Mother's Day represents to them. While their responses varied, they all agreed on one thing: it's a day to celebrate the leading lady in their lives.



Christina Ivanhoe, mother of Hannah, 3, and owner and designer of Ivanhoe Couture

"Mother's Day is the end all, be all with her. I put my faith in God. Hopefully, if I am a good wife and a good mother, she will grow up and do the same. A mother is thrown in different directions constantly, and I've learned to be prepared for anything. She is my life now. Whatever she is doing I am doing as well, and I enjoy every moment of it. Mother's Day is especially important to me because I didn't really have a mom, and I had to raise myself for most of my childhood. I know how important it is that she feels my unconditional love. That love can mold and build her, and I always want her to feel it. I'm her role model whether I set a good or bad example." —*Christina*

"Hugs!" —*Hannah*



Julie Hairgrove, mother of Madison, 5, Hailey, 3, and Grace, 1, and assistant coach of the Phoenix Mercury

"This [Mother's Day] is the day to recognize all that mothers do throughout their lives. Raising children is an important responsibility. Sure, my kids keep me busy but I'm having fun with them all day long. They do cute things all the time, and I always can't wait to tell my husband about them. All three of them have different personalities, and it's so cool to be there and watch them develop. At the end of the day, it is very rewarding to see them grow and who they are becoming." —*Julie*

"You are the best mom ever, and I love you because you help us pick up our toys." —*Madison*

"I love you because you read me books and you tickle my back." —*Hailey*



Sheri Heitner-Anderson, mother of twins Ari and Abbi, 8, and vice president and account director of Anderson Advertising & Public Relations

"Mother's Day is a little tough for me because I lost my mom about a year and a half ago. For me, it means being surrounded by my family and my friends to support and recognize all mothers do because mothers do a lot. They're the glue that holds our families together. For Mother's Day, I think it's that one day a year where we can honor the women that exemplify kindness, caring and love. On Mother's Day, it's just that one iconic day that you do everything in your power to, at least when my mom was alive, make sure that she's helped, like there's nobody else in the world more important to me than her." —*Sheri*

"We give our mom a day of rest for doing everything that she's done for us. And give her lots of hugs." —*Ari*

"Mother's Day means to me that we give our mom a special day where we give her lots of hugs and kisses and breakfast in bed." —*Abbi*



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Sharon Cochran, mother of Dillon, 17, Kaitlyn, 7, and Ashlynn, 5, and owner and designer of Rock N Couture

"Mother's Day for me is enjoying the best part of my life. Being a mother is the best job I have. I love being with Rock N Couture and being a realtor but raising my children, there's just no comparison. A lot of girls grow up thinking they want to get married and be a mom, but I don't think they realize how important being a mom really is. You're raising the future. They will be the head of the country and will take care of the old. Being a mother is one of the most important things any woman can do." —*Sharon*

"Mother's Day is the day to thank my mom for everything she does. She does so much for me, and I hardly ever see her because we're so busy. A lot of the time I don't appreciate it or say thank you even though I really should. Mother's Day is the one day a year only for her—the day to take her to a movie or whatever she wants to do. This is the day to show my appreciation and say thank you." —*Dillon*

"Mother's Day is to celebrate mothers and how special they are. My mom is special because we do fun stuff with her. She gives us stuff, too, like birthday parties, treats, play dates and cozy time." —*Kaitlyn*

"I like giving Mommy roses that day. I make pretty cards and cupcakes for her, too." —*Ashlynn*



Donna Vallone, mother of E.B, Berkley and Zach and president and lead designer of Vallone Design

"I have always thought that Mother's Day was probably started by a company such as Hallmark greeting cards. Although we celebrate it with brunch or dinner, cards and presents, I tell my kids that the best gift is being their mother. This year is really special, as it is my first year as a grandmother. It is one of those incredible life moments to see your child mother her child." —*Donna*

"Mother's Day is an opportunity for me to take care of my mother because she has spent so much time taking care of me. Since our family all works together, it is nice to spend time together and enjoy each other as a family." —*Zach*

"Mother's Day has always been a celebration of my amazing mom, role model and friend. Now that I am a mother, I look forward to sharing traditions and creating memories with my son and his grandmother, my mom." —*Berkley*