

Moms We Love: Vicki Mayo of The TouchPoint Solution

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In honor of Mother's Day this weekend, AZFoothills.com shares one of our favorite Valley moms each day leading up to the holiday. Today, meet Touchpoints co-founder, dedicated child advocate and Foster Siblings Camp founder, Vicki Mayo.



Children's name(s) and age(s): Mehr Mayo, 6; Veer Mayo, 8; Jay Chanda, 26; Aman Singh, 26

What is your biggest joy in being a mom? Biggest struggle? My biggest joy being a mom is watching my children grow into amazing human beings. Nothing beats the wonder and amazement and the joy of seeing your child see or do something for the first time. My biggest struggle being a mom is letting go. I can't be afraid to let them take those steps alone even if you know it means they may fall. It's not your job to not let them fall; it's your job to teach them that you have to get up and keep going.

What has been your proudest moment as a mother? My proudest moment as a mother was in November 2005, when I officially became a mom. I didn't become a mother at the hospital like most moms, but at a courthouse. Some months prior I had learned of two teenage boys, 13 and 14, that had been abandoned by their parents. The boys were working odd jobs to make enough money for rent and food all while trying to go to school. My heart ached for them, and I knew that if the roles were reversed, I would want someone to take care of me. The day I graduated college at 20 years old, I picked them up from their apartment and became an overnight mother.

Looking back, what advice would you give to yourself as a new mom? Enjoy it. The days may be long but the years are short. Within the blink of an eye, they're all grown up. Don't worry so much about being the perfect mom that you forget to savor every minute.

Describe your perfect day with your family. Bike riding along the green belt in McCormick Ranch and stopping somewhere for a cozy picnic full of local favorites, including Simple Farms Caramel and Andreoli's Pasta.

How do you like to celebrate Mother's Day? A mimosa and outdoor brunch with my mom, husband and children. I love Arizona because our weather is perfect nine months out of the year, and we try to enjoy the outdoors as much as possible.

Local favorites...

Family-friendly restaurant: *O.H.S.O. The outdoor patio and family games are a blast!*

Spot to be outdoors: *Sedona. We love hiking through Oak Creek Canyon.*

Little-known gem for families: *McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park - an absolute favorite!*

Family-friendly resort: *The Hyatt Gainey Ranch. Great place for a summer staycation - the water slides are always a huge hit!*

Annual family event: *Celebrating the Indian holiday, Diwali. During this five-day period, we light candles in every room of the house and celebrate the new year.*

Educational spot: *The library, it offers so many great programs that most people aren't aware of. From lectures to kids read along, we visit the library at least once or twice each week.*