

NEIGHBORS OF WEST CHINO HILLS

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Welcome Spring! A Festival of Colors

Meet the Desai Family

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Photograph by Shannon King Photography



Welcome Spring! A Festival of Colors

Meet the Desai Family

BY TAMMY BRUBAKER | PHOTOS BY SHANNON KING PHOTOGRAPHY

Shaili and Sachin



Our feature family this month grew up in the state of Gujarat in western India. Sachin and Shaili Desai met through an arranged marriage. Shaili's grandparents knew Sachin's family and planned their union together with their parents. At the time, Sachin was already living and working as a dentist in the United States. In January 2005, he made the trip back to India for six weeks to meet Shaili. "We met for a few hours, went out for coffee and dinner," Shaili recalls. "We both agreed to move forward and got married 17 days after we first met. Everything happened so quickly." The engagement ceremony took place on February 5th in Sachin's home town of Dahod and was attended by close family members. The wedding took place in Shaili's home town of Godhra. Even though everything happened so quickly the wedding was held according to Indian culture and all the wedding rituals were performed. Close family and friends helped arrange and attended all the functions. At the end of those six weeks, Sachin returned to his practice in the U.S. in March 2005. It took almost a year for Shaili to immigrate to the U.S. and join her husband.

Sachin has practiced dentistry since 2001 and opened his own office, Glendora Family Dentistry, located in city of Glendora, in 2008. Shaili studied in India and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in microbiology. She also carries certificate courses in phlebotomy and dental assisting. Currently, Shaili helps in the dental practice as a front office coordinator.

VOLUNTEERING AND HOBBIES

In her spare time, Shaili is an amazing volunteer and works hard helping at all the schools her children attend. She is currently serving on the PTO Board at Wickman Elementary, Townsend Junior High, and as a freshman parent at Chino Hills High School. Shaili donates a large amount of her time and the couple support the various school events and

charities financially as well. Without the assistance of parents like Shaili, so many programs would not be kept alive. Chino Hills' schools are thriving and the Desais, as well as so many Chino Hills families, are such a driving force. Shaili also loves cooking, especially all traditional Indian dishes.

The Desai family loves basketball, especially the Lakers. "We are diehard Lakers fans," they share proudly. "We even have wall murals in our game room with the Lakers logo."

FUN FACTS

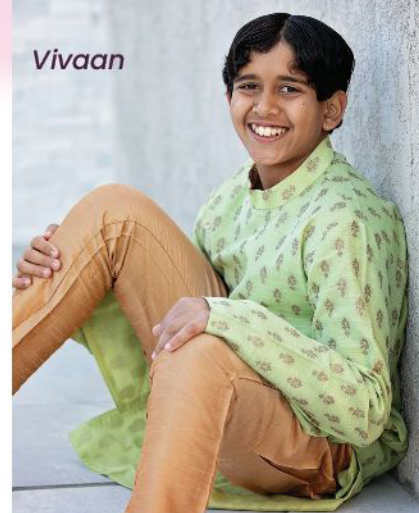
- The Desai's enjoy traveling to far away places.
- They love going out for dinner and spending quality time together.
- You'll often find Sachin in the kitchen baking with the kids.

Shaili and Sachin also like to celebrate major Indian festivals with family and friends. One celebration they like to host every year is Indian New Year. It falls during the months of October or November. Shaili decorates the house with traditional Diyas, wall hangings, garlands and rangolis. The whole house is transformed and a variety of Indian snacks and delicacies are cooked and served. "This is one way we can teach our children," Shaili and Sachin share. "It serves both the purpose of celebrating with family and friends, as well as teaching our children about Indian tradition and cultures."

Khushi



Vivaan



THEIR TWO CHILDREN

Khushi is 14 years old and a freshman at Chino Hills High School where she is a spirit leader with junior varsity cheer. She has always been a straight A student and loves reading fiction books and listening to music. Khushi has been in competitive gymnastics since she was four years old. This year she is competing with USA Girls Gymnastics and is competing at Level 8, one of the most difficult levels.

Their son, Vivaan, is 11 years old and is in sixth grade at Wickman Elementary School. Vivaan also competes for USA Boys Gymnastics. This year he is competing at Level 5, Division 1. Vivaan enjoys art and plays piano. In his free time, he enjoys playing video games and basketball.

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*Treat everyone like we want to be treated.
Be humble and have gratitude for everything life has to offer.*

NEIGHBORHOOD

The Desai family moved to Chino Hills in 2011 and reside in the Alterra neighborhood on Soquel Canyon Blvd. "We moved because Chino hills is considered one of the safest cities, has family communities and best ranking public schools," they said. "This neighborhood offers many great things including diversity in age and lifestyle." They love that their neighborhood has young families with small children, older adults that have lived here for more than 20 years, and young adults who are attending school. The neighbors take pride in their homes and are comfortable looking out for one another and helping when needed.

STORIES TO SHARE

As many of us do, the Desai family love to travel. They recently went on a family trip to Costa Rica with four other families. They stayed in Arenal and did adventurous activities like rappelling, white water rafting, zip lining and cave touring. The zip line was one of the favorites as some of the lines were over 1 km long over the jungle canopy. They rested and recouped in the hot springs at the resort in the evenings after a full day of activities. They also did a coffee and chocolate tour where all the kids had fun tasting chocolates. During summer they go to either Huntington or Newport Beach for a day of fun. Both kids are avid swimmers and also have few surfing lessons under their belts. Sachin and Vivaan go to Mountain High Resort in Wrightwood, CA, to ski during the winter season.

