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Just Go.

THE RIVERA-HANEY FAMILY'S
JOURNEY OF MOVEMENT
AND RESILIENCE



JUST GO: THE RIVERA-HANEY FAMILY'S JOURNEY OF MOVEMENT AND RESILIENCE

BY VANESSA ELMAS | PHOTOS BY ISABELL OLLINGER PHOTOGRAPHY AND COURTESY OF THE RIVERA-HANEY FAMILY

For Ramona Rivera and her fiancé, Roy Haney, life is defined by movement, community, and an unwavering commitment to look forward. Residents of both Hesperian and Marshall Villages, this dynamic couple has blended their lives, families, and passions into a beautiful, active journey right here in Gold River. Together with their children—twelve-year-old Evan and eight-year-old Sophia—they embody a family motto that is as simple as it is powerful: “Just go.”

Ramona and Roy’s story quite literally started at a run. Meeting in July 2021, their very first date was a brisk six-mile jog along the scenic Johnny Cash Trail. “I always joke that he was the first person I met who could actually keep up with me!” Ramona laughs.

That shared love for fitness, the outdoors, and family quickly became the foundation

of their relationship. Fast forward to October 2025, and Roy brought their journey full circle, proposing on the picturesque shores of Lake Natoma—one of the family’s absolute favorite local spots.

Both Ramona and Roy bring an incredible work ethic and a spirit of service to the neighborhood. Ramona, who spent much of her youth in Bali, Indonesia, immigrated to the United States and pursued a remarkable academic path. After earning an undergraduate degree from the University of Washington, she graduated from the New York University College of Dentistry and completed a dental implant residency at Loma Linda University. Since 2018, she has been the proud owner of RNR Dentistry in Fair Oaks. Beyond her practice, Ramona serves our state as a Dental Officer in the California National Guard, supporting criti-

cal training missions and local deployments.

Roy’s background is equally distinguished. A U.S. Navy veteran, Roy attended the University of Tennessee and earned his master’s degree from Thomas Edison State University while serving aboard submarines. He completed his doctoral degree in 2016 and now works in industrial operations, managing large-scale energy projects that span North America, Europe, and Latin America.

The couple’s children bring their own unique energy and talents to the household, each pursuing their own distinct passions. Twelve-year-old Evan possesses an incredible imagination and a natural knack for problem-solving. A talented gamer, he loves designing and bringing his creative projects to life using 3D printers, constantly finding innovative ways to build new things. Mean-



while, eight-year-old Sophia is a vibrant student at Gold River Discovery Center who keeps a wonderfully busy schedule filled with golf, Girl Scouts, and piano lessons. When she isn't busy learning something new, she can usually be found reading or playing with her best friends, Luna and Zoey.



Every family faces challenges, but the Rivera-Haney family meets theirs with a profound sense of gratitude and resilience. Evan lives with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a progressive genetic condition that gradually weakens muscles over time.

Rather than letting the diagnosis dictate



their boundaries, the family uses it as a daily reminder to embrace every single moment. Whether it is traveling, hiking, or attending sporting events, they refuse to let fear or uncertainty cause hesitation. Their philosophy remains anchored in their motto to "just go," focusing entirely on making lasting

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memories together.

If you spot the family out and about, they are almost certainly on the move. Daily runners and avid road cyclists, Ramona and Roy love paddleboarding on Lake Natoma and are enthusiastic pickleball players at the Gold River Sports Club, where they are thrilled about the new indoor facility. Recently, they even took up eFoiling—a sport that perfectly bridges their love for technology, fitness, and the water.

When game day arrives, house rivalries come alive. Ramona roots for the 49ers, the Athletics, and the Sacramento Kings. Sophia stands firm as a devoted Giants fan, while Roy stays true to his Navy roots, cheering on the Jacksonville Jaguars.

When winter rolls around, the family heads to Lake Tahoe for their annual ski trip. While the snow is great, the real highlight is a mandatory stop at Rubicon Pizza to enjoy their favorite, albeit unusual, tradition: ordering the curry shrimp pizza. And if Ramona could bypass the 22-hour flight, her dream would be to take the whole family back to her childhood home of Bali to regularly share its rich culture, beauty, and traditions with Roy, Sophia, and Evan.

For Ramona and Roy, Gold River offered the perfect backdrop for their blended family. Between the clean, safe neighborhoods and the extensive trail systems, it immediately felt like the right place to build a life.

As they look forward to many more years of friendship and shared memories, the family wants to extend a warm message to the community:

"We feel very fortunate to be part of the Gold River community. Thank you to our neighbors for helping create such a welcoming, active, and supportive place to live. We look forward to many more years of friendship, pickleball, community events, and shared memories." 🙏



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