



HAPPY FEET

Politz family helps cure Summerlin's aching feet

BY KRIS GUNDERSEN PHOTO BY JENNA BODNAR

When patients walk into Mountain Podiatry, it's easy to see the warmth and attention to detail that Dr. Jodi S. Politz has tried to give her patients. The waiting room is furnished with a purple leather couch and coordinating chairs and artwork.

She received her undergraduate degree in psychology at Northern Arizona University, earned her medical degree at Scholl College Chicago and did her residency training at Yale University in Connecticut. She moved to Las Vegas in 1998 and worked at Desert Orthopedic before opening her own practice, Mountain Podiatry, in 2001.

Politz grew up around podiatric medicine. She worked for her father Dr. Murray Politz, also a podiatrist, as a teenager in Maryland. Murray Politz, a board-certified physician in podiatric and foot and ankle surgeries, said he never encouraged his daughter to follow in his footsteps.

"I had to leave the office to go into surgery, and I was explaining to her what I'd be doing for this patient," Murray Politz says. "She told me what I'd be doing before I had the chance to tell her. Apparently, she was watching what I was doing all those years."

Choosing podiatry as a career was not a difficult decision for Jodi Politz. "When a patient comes in with an ingrown toenail I don't have to worry about him dying from that," she says.

After her father retired in 1994, Jodi Politz says she let him "play" for a year before getting him to come back to work at her office. He works two days a week as a technician, while her mother, Cookie, works part-time in the business office.

Politz says she loves having her father, the man who taught her the craft of treating patients, working for her.

"I trust him completely because I know exactly what he's going to do," she says. "It's the same thing that I would do. He's my best friend and he taught me everything I know."

Politz's patients at Mountain Podiatry include several Las Vegas Strip entertainers.

The practice is growing so rapidly, that Politz says she has an 1,800-square-foot expansion planned in the next six months. She plans on adding space for manicures, pedicures, reflexology and massage therapy. Currently, every patient receives a foot massage and spa treatment as part of the office visit.

Despite the size of her growing practice, Politz says she enjoys the attention she is able to give each of her patients.

"It's really important to me that each patient gets my full and undivided attention. I like to make the patient more comfortable," she says. "When they leave here happy, then I feel happy."

In her free time, Politz enjoys soccer, volleyball and yoga. She says she's "into sports and athletics in general." Murray Politz, who is certified ski instructor, also enjoys playing golf.

Mountain Podiatry is located at 653 Town Center Drive, Suite 118, and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday. Those interested can call 240-8038. ■

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—DR. JODI POLITZ