

08

SURINA KAMDAR MAZZOLA, 36

*President and CEO, Blackhawk Family
Development Center*

LIVES: SAN RAMON

WORKS: DANVILLE

Clinical psychologist Surina Kamdar Mazzola knows firsthand how young people can struggle in their adolescence. Growing up, she found it difficult to engage her immigrant parents in conversations about bullying or her attention issues.

"Though their love for and commitment to me were unwavering, they came from villages without electricity or running water and had a very different perception of what a problem is," she says of her parents, who immigrated from India in 1974.

Mazzola went on to found the Blackhawk Family Development Center, which provides counseling services, group classes, and equine therapy for children, teens, adults, and families. Along with her continued dedication to her clients, Mazzola hopes to help create proactive education and support programs that address teen suicide. She also aims to bring elements of her private practice to foster care-assistance efforts in Contra Costa County. —R.O.

