springfield LIVING

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OFF THE CLOCK

Dr. Afshan Ahmed is the owner of North Spring Dental



■ My work makes me feel:

Purposeful. Serving my patients is extremely rewarding.

- My favorite things: Cooking, reading books on design and a solid sunny, warm day.
- What people might be surprised to learn about you: I grew up in Tampa, Florida.
- Favorite thing to do "Off the Clock:" Travel.
- The last thing I read: "Girl Code" by Cara Alwill Leyba
- Guilty pleasure: Watching "Keeping Up with the Kardashians"
- Favorite quote: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Maya Angelou
- Favorite movie: "The Princess Bride"
- Favorite television show: "The X-Files"
- Best song on your iPod: "Closer to Fine" by Indigo Girls
- I can't live without: My family: my husband, my boys and my work family.
- Hardest job you have ever had: The hardest and most rewarding: being a mom.
- Hardest professional lesson you have ever learned: Time smooths most things out.
- Most challenging part of your job: Alleviating anxiety for patients who dislike the dentist.
- Most rewarding part of your job: Making a difference in my patients' lives, their health and their smiles.
- Best advice you've ever received:
 Have faith that some things are out
 of my control, and even with the best
 planning you have to go with the flow.
- Best advice for up and coming business people: Keep it real. Practice your authentic self and the rest will fall into place.
- Best advice for achieving work/ family life balance: Create a work environment that feels like family.
- Best job you could have other than this one: Having my own food truck.
- The advantage of doing business in Springfield: Moving from a large city to a smaller one took some adjusting. The small town feel allows me to really engage in our community, and seeing patients everywhere is a bonus.

INTERVIEW BY BY DIANE ERWIN PHOTO BY BILL LACKEY