

BUTLER CHAIN

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MEET THE DIXONS: Life in Lake Butler Sound



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By Kristin Sabol

Photos submitted by the family

A beautiful home, a loving family, and excellent opportunities! The Dixons feel grateful and blessed and are loving their life on the picturesque Butler Chain. From excellent area schools to scenic parks and recreation to the thrill of the local theme parks, the Dixons know that Central Florida is the perfect place for sun, fun, and raising their growing family.

Christopher (35) and Makenzie Dixon (28) met while attending school at Utah State University. "We met while in college," Christopher explained. Christopher majored in politics/government, graduated with honors, and transitioned to Finance, and Makenzie attended school for dental hygiene. "She lived next door to me, but I didn't meet her until the very last semester. We were engaged three months later and married six months after that."

The couple married in Salt Lake City, Utah, and considered a couple of different locations before moving back south to Florida. "I've always been a Florida boy, and we looked at other cities like Sarasota and Tampa, but Central Florida just felt like coming home."

While in college, Christopher invented and patented a plastic fitness bottle still sold in major retailers nationwide. That same entrepreneurial mindset drove him to start a financial wealth management firm, Oxford Advisory Group, that he operates with his brother. "I get to be an entrepreneur and help people every single day. I'll meet with 5-6 people a day, and each one I can really help secure and protect their retirement. I thought I wanted

to be a doctor, and I wanted to save lives every day. But, about halfway through school, I realized that me and Biology don't gel too well!" laughed Chris. "I still wanted to be able to help people, and this profession done right enables me to fulfill that passion!"

Oxford has multiple office locations and focuses on helping retirees and pre-retirees plan for retirement, with a special focus on tax-free investing. They teach that retirement is about more than just investing; it is about planning for income, health, taxes, and legacy.

After college, Makenzie was a dental hygienist for many years but decided to stay at home and fulfill her passion for raising their children.

In 2019, the couple moved to the beautiful neighborhood of Lake Butler Sound. Having grown up in Apopka, Christopher was already familiar with the area and was eager to move to the location. "What appealed to us the most about Windermere is that you don't feel like you are in Orlando. Instead, it feels like its own world, a lake enclave filled with natural beauty and wildlife. Also, my wife, who is from Utah, realized how close it was to Disney, so it was a done deal for her!"

The couple discovered Lake Butler Sound after exploring neighboring communities, including Isleworth and Chain du Lac. "It's kind of funny how we picked the Lake Butler Sound neighborhood. I tried to get into the neighborhood just to poke around and look at homes, but the guard wouldn't let me in. I even made up some stories, but he didn't budge. I said you know what, that's exactly what I want in a guard-gated community! The guard's name was Caleb, and now we are good friends."

The couple appreciates the beauty and tranquility of Lake Butler Sound. "The tree lined streets and unique home architecture really drew us to this neighborhood. It's quiet and feels safe. We also love being so close to Disney."



The Dixons also live minutes away from Christopher's brother and his family in the same neighborhood. "My wife and my brother's wife are best friends, which is really fantastic because we work together and even live in the same neighborhood."

The Dixons have two children Jackson (6) and Adelaide (3), with twin girls on the way! They are excited about their growing family and love living in an area with so much to offer and is family-friendly!

The children take advantage of the Central Florida offerings and love to stay active! Jackson participates in tennis, karate, piano, and baseball; he also enjoys fishing with his dad. Adelaide is the princess and already enjoys shopping. She also likes to try the sports that her older brother is involved with.

Christopher and Kenzie like staying active too! They are often outside playing with their children or practicing their own hobbies! "Kenzie has gotten into archery and realized that she is a pretty good shot. That surprised both of us!" But, Kenzie joked, "Chris is trying to make golf a hobby but can't seem to get his old baseball swing out of the way. Very frustrating!"

The Dixons are animal lovers and have four dogs and a cat. "Titus is the German Shepherd, Winston is the Pomeranian, Carrot is the Bernie doodle, and a rescue mutt named Dory. The cat's name is 'Kitty!'"

The family enjoys playing with their furry friends and spending their downtime together! "We like to go to the beach, Disney, and fishing! Chris teaches Sunday school at our church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints," shared Mackenzie. Since Oxford is the official wealth management firm for UCF, the family can often be found cheering them on in football as well!

The Dixons value the excellent proximity of Lake Butler Sound! It is conveniently close to great local restaurants, parks, and more! "We enjoy a good steak from Mortons. (Mortons has a more local feel and a subdued atmosphere.) We do a lot of exploring in Central Florida; it has so much to offer. From Wekiva Springs, Kelly Park, Tibet nature trails, and museums."



The Dixons and their extended family also love visiting the theme parks and especially love living so close to Disney! "My wife and her entire family who live in Utah are Disney fanatics. So we purposefully decided to live close to Disney in which we go literally every weekend. Her family loves to visit now, and it's been a dream come true for both my wife and her family," joked Christopher.

Living so close to the theme parks allows the family to go almost every weekend. It is one of their favorite ways to have fun together as a family! "We will go for a couple of hours and hit a few rides, or on Saturdays, we like to go to Epcot and have lunch at World Showcase. Maybe France one day, then Italy the next. We also like to do evening Safari rides at Animal Kingdom. And even though we live so close, we like to try out all the hotels. I think we have stayed at almost all of them. Our favorites are Animal Kingdom Lodge, Grand Floridian, and Wilderness Lodge. We just took the RV to Fort Wilderness and did some "glamping!"

The Dixons take time to reconnect and recharge through vacations! Whether local staycations or international travel, the family likes to explore! "We like to travel a lot. We usually go someplace once a month for at least an extended weekend. We have really enjoyed going to Aruba and Lake Como, Italy. We also enjoy exploring and traveling around Florida to coastal towns."

With COVID restrictions lifting, the Dixon family is looking forward to more vacations. "We plan on exploring everything Florida has to offer this year and have planned local trips to the Keys and Anna Maria Island."

Christopher and Mackenzie Dixon have found the perfect place to raise their family! From the friendly neighbors to their picturesque community to their weekends of Disney fun, the Dixon family loves their life in Lake Butler Sound.

