

BUTLER CHAIN

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Living

CHRISTOPHER KNOWLES:
Innovator, Entrepreneur,
and Family Man



Best Version Media®

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Cover photo provided by Chris Knowles



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Meet Our Team

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Are you on the association board for your subdivision? Contact us for information on how you can submit articles, updates, reminders, events, and more to the residents. We create customized Homeowners Association sections at no cost to the HOA or the residents.

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Have feedback, ideas, recipes to share, or submissions? We are always happy to hear from you! NEW Deadlines for submissions are the 5th of each month for the next month's issue. Email your thoughts, ideas, and photos to: ksabol@bestversionmedia.com. You can also go to www.bestversionmedia.com and click "Submit Content."

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Butler Chain Living Deadlines

MONTHLY DEADLINE: Content is due on the 5th of the previous month before publication.
For example, content for the May 2020 edition is due on April 5.

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Hello Readers

Gingerbread cookies, family gatherings, twinkling lights, and festive decorations! Happy December and Seasons Greetings, readers! The magic of the holidays is upon us, and I hope you are enjoying this wonderful holiday season with family, friends, and your favorite traditions.

From the quiet reverence of a seasonal service to whimsical light displays to delicious treats- this time of year is a flurry of celebration and wonder! And though this year has indeed been like no other- December has me remembering the celebratory spirit of the season and being grateful for all that I have.

I am usually nostalgic and reflective this time of year, looking back on the past 12 months and wondering: where did the time go? I have a mixture of emotions that reflect 2020. There were times of stress and uncertainty, but there were also times of inspiration and positive change. Times where days seemed long and endless, and other times where entire weeks flew by. As I look forward to the holiday season and all that December brings, I am also looking forward to starting a fresh, new year.

At the heart of this holiday season is family, community, and celebration, and we want to celebrate you. This month we bring you stories and people who not only celebrate the season but celebrate what they do each day. I know you will enjoy reading their stories and find inspiration for the upcoming year.

The Team at *Butler Chain Living* wishes you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, and a very happy and prosperous New Year. Enjoy the month of December with friends and family, and safely enjoy this holiday season. Thank you for being our readers, and we look forward to an amazing 2021!



Kristin Sabol

Content Coordinator,
Butler Chain Living

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To learn more about becoming an expert contributor, contact BVM at swiebersch@bestversionmedia.com.



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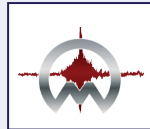
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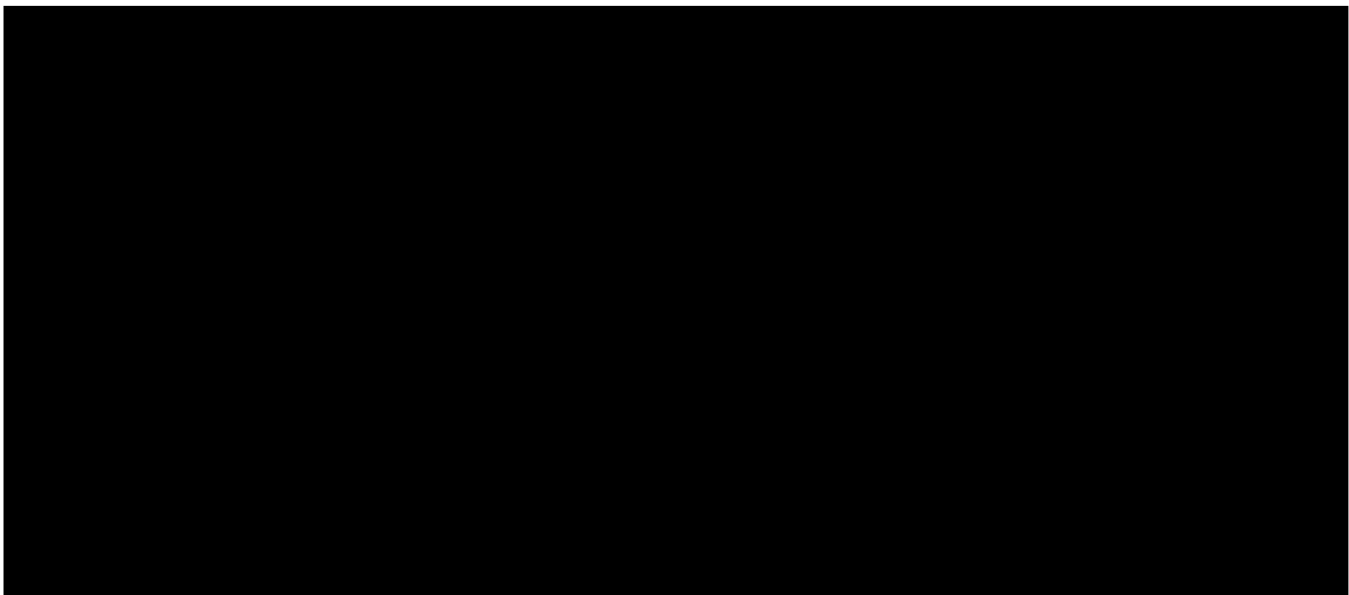


THE VARIETY CLUB - FLORIDA CHAPTER

By Kristin Sabol

On October 10, 1927, 11 young men with various show business backgrounds met for the first time and formed a new social club in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, called "The Variety Club." On Christmas Eve, a few months later, their club took on a new mission with the discovery of an abandoned baby and a

heartbreaking letter from the mother begging the group to take care of her daughter, Catherine. When the parents could not be located, the club members decided they would act as 11 "Godfathers" and provide Catherine the support and education she would need. It was then that the Variety- the Children's Charity was born.



Catherine and the Variety Club received a large amount of media attention and instant notoriety. They also received an abundance of public assistance, more than necessary for Catherine alone, and shared these resources with other local children. Today, Variety – the Children's Charity has a network of 44 offices in 13 countries and has helped millions of children worldwide live a better life.

"The Children's Charity of Florida is 1 of 43 Variety Tents (Clubs) worldwide," explained Richard Goldstein, Executive Director of Variety Club -Florida Chapter. The 501(c)organization was founded in 1989 to help children with "special needs" in Central Florida. Though the organization is international, the funds raised in a location remain in that specific location. "All monies raised in an area must remain in that area to provide funds for sick, handicapped, and underprivileged children. Our area is the entire state of Florida!"



Goldstein has been part of Variety in Buffalo for over 40 years and Variety in Florida for eight years. He has been a crucial element within the organization in carrying on the charity's mission and bringing positivity to many in Central Florida. "The best part of Variety is helping children in the local community. Watching the smile on children, their families, their doctors, and therapists' faces as Variety presents funds."

Variety of Florida offers three different programs that assist children and addresses various needs:

- Variety's Freedom Program- delivers crucial life-changing equipment and services to help children who require developing and mobility assistance.
- Variety's Care Program- delivers critical life-saving medical equipment and services to families and children's health organizations.
- Variety's Future Program-enriches children's lives by providing services that will enhance their education, self-esteem, and character development.

Variety of Florida has also partnered with UCF and its Division of Physical Therapy to support the Go Baby Go program. This unique program provides innovative, accessible, and practical options to improve children's lives with limited mobility. They have also donated over \$250,000 to Howard Phillips Center for Children and Families for various programs and to refurbish their entire facility.

Variety of Florida is grateful for the local community's generosity and support and offers many ways to get involved. Readers can become a member, volunteer, or local sponsor. Please visit varietyflorida.org for additional information on supporting this wonderful charity.



CHRISTOPHER KNOWLES:

Innovator, Entrepreneur, and Family Man

By Kristin Sabol | Photos provided by Christopher Knowles

A British Nationals medal winner, successful entrepreneur, innovative inventor, and lovable family man- Christopher Knowles is many different things. From photography to waterskiing to spending time with his daughter and partner Delma, Christopher has a variety of passions and likes to stay active. With a love for family and a zest for life, this local Lake Sawyer resident is living his best life in Central Florida.

Chris Knowles was born in England and attended the College of Huddersfield, receiving his qualifications in Electrical Engineering Technologies/Technicians. He began visiting the United States as a young adult to coach water skiing and fell in love with the Florida sunshine, active lifestyle, and the great outdoors; he also met his late wife, Sandy. "We met on the golf course at a travel industry event. She worked in Sales at WaterMania water park in Kissimmee, just off Highway 192. I worked for a MultiMedia Company targeting UK travelers. We married in 1995 on Sanibel Island."

The Knowles built a beautiful lakefront home and had one daughter, Alexis (22), born June 1998 in Orlando. They also have two loveable

pups with a knack for fun and surprises: Winston, a 14-year-old Black Lab, and Harvey, a one-year-old White Lab. "Winston once ate an entire pie we had ready for Thanksgiving Dinner. He ate the pie tin and everything! Harvey might as well be part fish. He's in the water any chance he gets. Whether it be the pool, jumping off the dock into the lake, puddles, ocean, seeking out a bucket of water- anything!"

Chris's daughter, Alexis, attends Florida State University and is in her final semester, majoring in Psychology and minoring in business. She is passionate about music, singing, and helping others and hopes to incorporate these passions in the future with a career in foster care and music therapy.

The Knowles family has a history of incorporating their passions into various careers. "Mum owned a travel company, and Dad worked in Media Sales initially, using his skills as a photographer/videographer for quite a while, until the recession hit and multiple employees were let go from their positions, my dad being one of them," said Alexis. "In our toughest of times, he managed to turn

things around by establishing his own company, Anglo Productions Inc. He continued his love and passion for the outdoors through creativity, photography, advertising, and commercial media, enjoying working relationships over the years with Universal Studios, Disney, Florida Hotels, and travel companies. "

Chris has held multiple positions and enjoyed a variety of careers, including an electrician, Makita UK Area Sales Manager, owner of Anglo Productions Inc, Multi-Media Sales, and Solar City Sales Manager. He has an extensive background and enjoys working with people. He presently works as a Tesla Advisor. "I currently work at Tesla – I am passionate about Electric Vehicles, the Environment, and Sustainable Energy. " My work at Tesla puts me at the forefront to achieve this goal." This innovation and eco-friendly passion for renewable energy landed him the job at Tesla, allowing him to share his love of the environment and quality Electric Vehicles to Central Florida residents.



Chris and daughter Alexis with CanSkirt products

Chris is also the inventor of an exciting new product, CanSkirt- one he discovered while walking the dogs through Windermere. "He noticed the seemingly endless amount of 'eye-sores' (the county's giant trash cans) and grew curious of things he could do to increase the streets' aesthetics," Alexis explained. "Obviously trash cans are essential, and keeping them inside the home all of the time would be a hassle and frankly, quite gross... and with limited space, there's not really a plausible way to keep them hidden in a yard, either. A couple of miles later, my dad walked past a gorgeous wall of Azaleas and an idea popped into his head. Would it be possible to conceal these ugly trash containers behind some well-manicured shrubbery? Not really. There was potentially too much cost and maintenance. But what IS possible? Creating a trash can camouflage cover, enabling the trash cans to be hidden in plain sight and even be a nice thing to look at. This is where his photography skills came into play. Various manicured neighborhood landscapes around Florida were photographed, edited, and fitted to size onto easy to install vinyl covers for these trash cans. The prototypes were developed, manufactured, tested, and he applied for patents. CanSkirt was born".

CanSkirt is a unique solution to a growing visual problem. Its products are being used all over the world and across the United States. The patent-pending product offers innovative design and a variety of attractive styles that blend into the surrounding landscape. Visit www.canskirt.com for additional information and product details.

Chris resides in the beautiful Windermere community of Lake Sawyer Estates and values the convenience and beauty of lakefront living. He especially appreciates the friendly neighbors and natural



Chris with his daughter Alexis



landscape of Central Florida, often taking advantage of the beautiful sunny weather. "It couldn't be better- waterski on my doorstep, sunshine, outdoor living, great neighbors, and great location. We often enjoy a sunset boat ride with a bottle of wine!"

Chris likes to stay active, and Orlando is the ideal place. This British National Waterski Medal Winner enjoys snow-skiing and water skiing. He is also a huge fan of the Leeds United Premier League Soccer Team and FSU Football. "We enjoy being active. We enjoy boating on the Harris Chain, Butler Chain, and Clermont Chain of Lakes, but we also love to go to Walt Disney World, SeaWorld, and Universal Studios when we get the chance. When Alexis was younger, we had annual passes for all the theme parks, but now visit mostly at Christmas time to EPCOT. It's been a family tradition to see the Candlelight Processional every year – Alexis sang with the West Orange High School Choir regularly at the EPCOT Candlelight Processional."

Family and tradition are both essential for the Knowles family. Chris, Delma, and Alexis enjoy getting together with friends and hitting their favorite local hot spots including, Bonefish, Aji, Crooked Can Brewery, and Yellow Dog Eats. Family and



Enjoying Paris

friends typically come to visit during the holidays. "Mum and Dad and UK friends are usually here for Thanksgiving. We host Turkey traditions and entertain at our house, usually on the outside deck. Enjoying the mirrorlike image of Disney Fireworks reflecting across the lake in the evening."

The Knowles also enjoy traveling together and visit England/Europe every year to see family in West Yorkshire. "I moved from England as a young adult. Alexis is a dual citizen of the USA and the United Kingdom. She plans on spending time in England once COVID is under control. We visit England annually to visit family and friends and explore an additional country each time we are there. Alexis was surprised with a trip to Paris for her 21st birthday."

Chris enjoys his visits home, but he also enjoys international travel! One of his favorite trips was spending New Years in Reykjavik, Iceland, and experiencing their unique holiday traditions. He hopes to travel more in the near future.

Chris is working hard and staying active in Central Florida! Whether enjoying the perks of lakefront living, exploring local hot spots, or indulging in one of his many talents and passions, Chris is truly living his best life!



Chris and Delma

