



EPPERSON
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The Thompsons Found Epperson To Be The Best Of Both Worlds.

Sounds glamorous and the ultimate Sunshine State experience to move to Florida and live in a yacht club at the beach. Not so much, according to Chrissy Thompson. Sure, it was a beautiful location, but it lacked one very important ingredient her family of five was craving--a real, honest-to-goodness community. With only 18 full-time residents in the yacht club and tourists coming and going, it felt more like a transient resort experience than a real neighborhood.

“My kids would ask me, Mom where are all the kids to play with?” said Chrissy. “They were so lonely and we all felt pretty isolated at that time, as everyone did. Covid compounded it.”



The Thompsons moved from North Carolina to Madeira Beach In March of 2020, just in time for the Pandemic to hit. Chrissy and husband Dymar and their six-, nine-, and 11-year-old children not only found themselves without friends to play with, but also nowhere to meet them. Schools were shuttered and home schooling online removed any hope of meeting kids in the lunchroom or on the playground. Chrissy, a former nurse, had taken a job as a 9-1-1 operator and her husband continued to manage take-out orders and juggle ever-changing CDC mandates as the manager of a Buffalo Wild Wings franchise. To say times were tough was an understatement. They lived in paradise and had no one other themselves to share it with.



“We always look for fun things to do with the kids, and decided to try a trampoline spot. Even though they didn’t say so on their website, they were closed due to Covid, so we decided to set off on a drive. That’s when we stumbled upon Wesley Chapel and Epperson,” said Chrissy.

[Epperson](#) was like the perfect blend of a beach scene and a real community, with neighborhoods, schools, and lots of kids for their children to meet and play with. In fact, after moving here, all three Thompson children met their “besties” at the Lagoon. Christian loves the water obstacle course, the girls love the water slides, while Chrissy and Dymar like to chill at the water-side bar and lounge area.

“There’s something for everyone here,” she said. “We’re all truly content and happy.”

The Thompsons moved to Epperson in March of 2020 and enjoy all of the events the community has to offer. Their neighborhood has already been a springboard to a fulfilling a new dream for Chrissy.

Chrissy, who was finding being a 9-1-1 operator as emotionally challenging as being a nurse during Covid, was ready to try something new. Plus, her sister had passed early on in the Pandemic from bronchitis at a tender age just shy of 21, so Chrissy was ready to bring some joy to other’s people lives and promote happiness in this difficult time of profound sadness for so many.

She joined the [Pasco SmartStart](#) business incubator which will soon open at the Krate in Wesley Chapel. Smart Start provides mentoring, business skills training, and leadership training to up-and-coming entrepreneurs in Pasco County. She has launched Core Memory Events, where she helps families create memorable events in their home, their backyard, at a restaurant, or anywhere they want to bond, have fun, and put the event specifics into someone else's competent hands.

"I'm always doing events for my family to give us quality time together, and this was a logical extension," said Chrissy. "Especially after losing my sister, I knew I had to do what I could to make sure we enjoy the life we are living. My goal is bring a little happiness to everyone."

In fact, Chrissy and some of her neighbors are working on a "Get To Know Your Neighbor" series of events that could include a neighborhood cook-off or a pop-up picnic at the Lagoon.

Chrissy still has a nurse's heart, though, and has reached out to the Children's Cancer Center to offer free events to children while in treatment there. Before leaving nursing when Covid hit, Chrissy was an oncology nurse at a cancer institute.

"I really enjoy giving back," she said.

But back to the beginning. Just how did Chrissy and her family stumble upon Epperson? Simply put, social media. While stopping for that fateful ice cream at Wiregrass Mall, Chrissy found a Wesley Chapel Facebook group page. That's when they first heard of Epperson. They quickly found out that [Wesley Chapel](#) is becoming one of [Tampa Bay's](#) most popular destinations. With the resurgence of the movie complex and Krate at The Grove, [Tampa Premium Outlets](#), Cypress Creek Mall, and [The Shoppes of Wiregrass](#), there is plenty to see and do. While Chrissy plans on home schooling her children for now, she and her husband are considering enrolling them in the [Innovation Preparatory Academy](#) next year.

Next time you're at the Lagoon at Epperson, you might just find a pop-up picnic or other Core Memory Event underway with the Thompsons playing a central role. If not, chances are good you'll find them lounging Lagoon-side. There is no doubt that whatever they're doing, they're doing it together with some new friends.



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