

MAITLAND

AN EXCLUSIVE MAGAZINE SERVING THE HEART OF MAITLAND

Neighbors

JUNE 2018

Connecting **WITH THE KONKOLS**



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Cover Photo by Sydney Marie

Connecting WITH THE KONKOLS

By Lindsay Gigler-Huff | Photos by Sydney Marie

The saying often goes: Two is a couple and three is a crowd. But if four is a gathering and five is a party, what do you call 10 individuals? The residents of Dommerich call them the Konkols. This unique family of 10 is loved within the community and is an inspiration to those around them.

"Being part of a large family is somewhat of an anomaly in this day and age," David Konkol said about his family's size. He and his wife, Jo, are parents to eight wonderful children – five biological siblings and three adopted kids – named Lauren, 20, Samuel, 19, Blake, 18, Brantly, 17, Anna, 15, Andrew, 15, Jackson, 13 and Mia, 10. "It has taught [the children] how to share and to consider the interests of the entire family as a whole, rather than just themselves," he continued.

David and Jo met through mutual friends at church nearly three decades ago and were immediately inseparable. The two were engaged within a year and married just seven months later. Now, after 26 years of wedded bliss, David still dotes his "beautiful bride."

"Jo is a great mom and even better wife. [I know I] married way up," David said about his best friend. "Our marriage gets better every year."

With eight kids so close in age, the Konkols spend gobs of quality time together as a family. Their favorite time is at dinner around their large dining room table. "Everyone shares what they are thankful for that day. Every few months, we all turn to the



person to our right and share something they appreciate about that person," Jo said.

The family is always looking for ways to uplift each other. David often speaks to each child individually about their positive qualities. He highlights what makes them special and discusses God's calling for them. It's this support that drives the success each child has accomplished thus far in their lives.

The Konkol's eldest daughter, Lauren, lives in Washington D.C and works at the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. She graduated from the University of Central Florida with a Bachelor Degree in Political Science and Ethics in 2016. She then went on to earn a Master Degree in Theology from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Sam is an award-winning cellist who made his musical debut at Carnegie Hall when he was 16 years-old.

He is enrolled in the 3/2 Accelerated Management Program (AMP) for Music at Rollins College, which combines a four-year Bachelor of Arts and a two-year Master of Business Administration (MBA) into a five-year program. Blake is a student at the University of Florida. He studies art history and spends his time doing yoga, running and working at Starbucks. Brantly is a junior at Winter Park High School and pursues entrepreneur opportunities

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online. Anna, who David and Jo adopted from China when she was a year-old, and Andrew attend the Winter Park 9th Grade Center. Jackson, who was also adopted from China when he was just

one-year-old, is a sixth-grader at Maitland Middle School. Mia, the family's youngest daughter, was adopted from South Korea at the age of one. She attends private school and adores horseback riding.

"Our children are exactly different. [We] realize it takes intentional parenting to raise [our] children according to their bent...the way God shaped them," David said in awe. "Parenting them has been one of our greatest joys in life."

Being a part of large family often has its perks for the Konkols. "When the children ask how many people will be coming to their birthday party, the answer is always, 'at least 10.' We joke about renting our family out for birthday parties because we can instantly create a crowd," David said.

David is the owner of Konkol Custom Homes & Remodeling. Located in Maitland, the company helps residents throughout Central Florida build their dream homes. David's experience in





the construction industry dates back to childhood – he grew up in a family of homebuilders and started his own roofing company when he was 17 years-olds. He used his earnings to attend the University of Wisconsin–Stout where he received

a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management. While attending classes, David was recruited by a national home builder, and four years later he started his own business. Konkol Custom Homes & Remodeling is proudly celebrating 35 years of building custom, well-designed homes.

In his spare time, David enjoys working out and running marathons. He is a fan of the Green Bay Packers and the Wisconsin Badgers. David also coaches Maitland kids in soccer and basketball at the YMCA. Jo loves flowers, reading and planning parties for friends and family. She hosts a bible and book study in their home once a week. Jo hopes to train for another triathlon soon as well. She has participated in several short sprint distance races in Clermont and at Walt Disney World, including three half marathons. Her next goal is to do an Olympic distance triathlon – roughly 32 combined miles of swimming, biking and running. The Konkols also practice their service to God at Anchor Church at Maitland Middle School.

David has fond memories of his hometown in Wisconsin. He brings the family to visit during the summer to go boating, tubing, jet skiing, fishing and kayaking along the Wisconsin River. The Konkols also love vacationing in

the mountains of North Carolina, where they enjoy a change of season, cooler temperatures and snow skiing in the Winter. But the family will always call Maitland home.

David and Jo have lived in Maitland for most of their married life. They enjoy being surrounded by family-friendly neighbors and the community vibe felt throughout the city. They moved to Dommerich nine years ago to be close to David's office and the children's schools.

"We have had some of the best neighbors in Maitland: Kind, caring people who are always available to help," David said about their beloved neighborhood. The Konkols can't imagine living anywhere else.

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