

Our



WATERFRONT

Living
June 2026



Cover photo courtesy of the Ringo Family

POWERED BY



*Remembering Waterset Resident,
Lexi Ringo - The Girl Everyone Loved*



Remembering Waterset Resident, **Lexi Ringo** - *The Girl Everyone Loved*

Tim, Chrissy, and Lexi Ringo moved to Waterset in July of 2015 from San Diego on military orders. They ended up buying the first model home to break ground in this neighborhood. Lexi was sad that her brother, Brandon, wanted to stay in San Diego after graduating high school that year, but she was excited that her new home was close to a beach with warm water. She started first grade at Doby Elementary and transferred to Waterset Charter School the first year it opened, when she was in third grade. She continued in the charter school system and attended Winthrop College Prep Academy for her high school years. Within a few years of living in Waterset, her grandmother (Linda Ringo, from Indiana) and her grandparents (Ralph and Judy Vaggi, from Georgia) also moved into the neighborhood, so Lexi was surrounded by love as she grew up.

Lexi enjoyed the love, support, and attention of both her parents. Her mom made sure her school, volunteering, and extracurricular activities stayed on track and helped her balance interests in



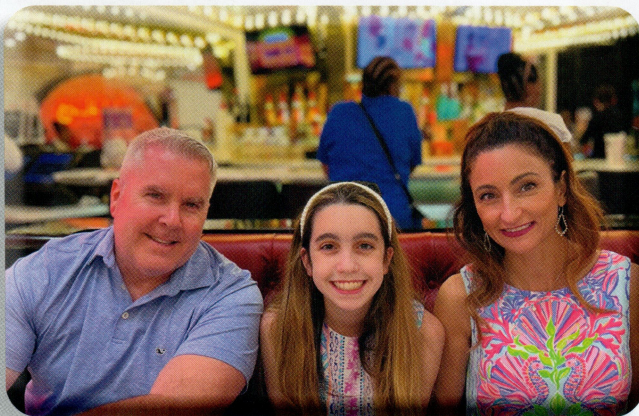
golf, reading, Legos, video and computer games, and Disney. Her dad made sure they never missed a Marvel or Star Wars movie, and he supported her love of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. As a family, they enjoyed traveling to tropical beaches, watching throwback 80s movies, and listening to yacht rock. All special events and milestones were celebrated with pizza or dinner at the local hibachi restaurant.

From about five years old, Lexi knew she wanted to be a doctor. She thought her brother, Brandon, could work with her, too... not as another doctor in her practice but as a janitor. She would watch him do chores around the house and assumed this must be something he enjoyed and would want to do as a career. She had even recommended buying him a vacuum cleaner for his 16th birthday because of this misguided assumption. This employment opportunity between

Lexi and Brandon was a running joke in the family, and Brandon agreed to be her janitor for the right salary.

Lexi was a leader in her school and her community, always productive and always working toward her next goal. Lexi was jokingly nicknamed "the third principal" by classmates and school staff because she worked so closely with administrators during school events and also knew so many students. She brought people together from different friend groups and could really sell people on joining in on her hobbies and interests. She could also recognize the potential in her classmates and would let them know when they were not living up to it, usually in a supportive way but sometimes with blunt honesty.

At Winthrop College Prep Academy, Lexi was 5th in her Junior class of 300+ students and held leadership roles in National Honor Society, Student Ambassadors, and Student Government. She was elected Class President for both her Sophomore and Junior years



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Thank you!

and was planning to pursue a third term as a Senior. She was also in the process of rechartering HOSA at her high school (a club for future medical professionals). For the 2025 golf season, she was MVP of the East Bay Girls Golf Team. This past summer, she received her certificate for completing a 30-hour online course from Harvard Medical School. Lexi planned to attend the University of Florida and ultimately become an orthopedic surgeon.

On Saturday mornings, she coached junior golfers for the First Tee Golf Program. Lexi spent Sunday afternoons at Sarasota Memorial Hospital accompanying and engaging with patients. For Metropolitan Ministries, she served in the cafeteria, helped with housekeeping, and worked at the Holiday Tent.

On December 26, 2025, after leaving golf practice, Lexi was riding as a passenger while her mother drove. Only a few minutes from home, their car was hit by a drunk driver who ran a stop sign at 30th Street and Covington Garden Drive. Lexi sustained traumatic head and brain injuries and she was unresponsive immediately upon impact. Lexi's mother and father were both with her at the hospital when she was pronounced dead only one hour after the accident occurred. Had she survived the accident, Lexi's brain injuries would have sentenced her to an existence of complete dependence, so it was a blessing that God took Lexi quickly, quietly, and with her dignity. The Hillsborough County Public Works Administration has erected a "Drive Safely" memorial marker at the accident scene to remind residents and passers-throughs that traffic deaths are not limited to highways. They can occur anywhere that an intoxicated, reckless, or distracted driver is traveling.



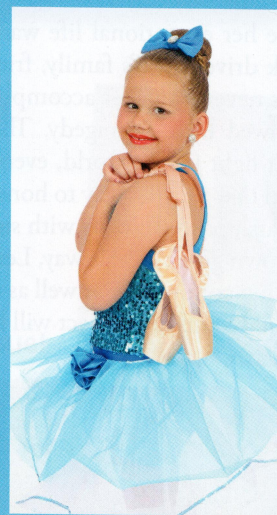
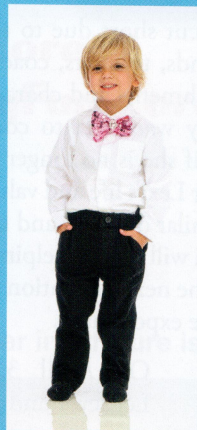
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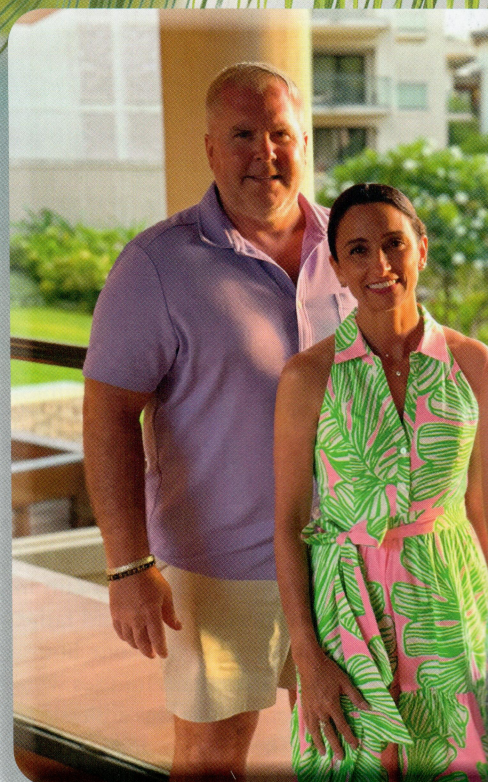


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The Waterset community was instrumental in the Ringo family's ability to find peace and purpose after the accident. This came from prayers, words of support, Facebook posts, cards in their mailbox, flowers on their doorstep, and a well-attended Celebration of Life for their daughter. For Lexi's mom, her worst fear is that her daughter will be forgotten. The Waterset community has proven that they will not forget Lexi or the Ringo family. To this day, Lexi's parents still receive messages from people in the Waterset neighborhood, many of them starting off as strangers but now connected through this tragedy.

While her exceptional life was cut short due to the actions of a drunk driver, Lexi's family, friends, teachers, coaches, and teammates never want her accomplishments and character to be overshadowed by this tragedy. They want her to continue being a bright light in this world, even if she is no longer in it. Everyone agreed that the best way to honor Lexi's life and values is to provide scholarships to students with similar qualities and help them reach their own goals. In this way, Lexi will still be helping future leaders from her community as well as the next generation of medical professionals, and her impact will be exponential.

On April 3, 2026, Lexi's Legacy Fund Inc. received a



determination from the IRS that it is a recognized public charity under Internal Revenue Code (IRC)

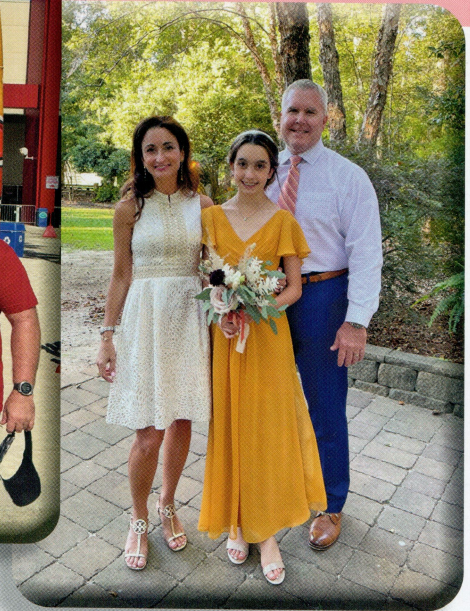
501(c)(3) and all donations made on or after January 22, 2026, are tax deductible. The entire purpose of the charity is to award scholarships to high school seniors and students accepted into the University of Florida College of Medicine.

Lexi's Legacy Fund has a website at LexisLegacyFund.org. People can learn about the scholarships being offered, stay informed about upcoming fundraising events, and make donations. Of particular interest to parents and students in the Waterset neighborhood will be the Lexi's Legacy Merit Scholarship, which keeps Lexi's memory connected to her community and her interests. This scholarship will be open to high school seniors who are residents of the Waterset neighborhood, students at Winthrop College Preparatory Academy, participants on the East Bay High School Golf Team or the First Tee Golf Team, and/or volunteers at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. This scholarship will be awarded to students who closely align with Lexi's focus on academics, leadership, and service.

Successful fundraising events will allow additional and/or larger scholarships to be awarded each year. Two annual events are in the early planning stages and tentatively scheduled for the spring of 2027 – a 5k Walk/Run within the Waterset neighborhood and a golf match at a local course. These two events will continue to tie Lexi's memory to this community and also to the sport she participated in since the summer after third grade. Every project Lexi did for school was top-notch, so Lexi's family and friends are committed to making sure the events would get Lexi's stamp of approval. The goal is for the events to be fun and meaningful for participants so they will want to attend year after year. In addition to these two fundraisers, smaller fundraising efforts within her high school (like cookie sales) will provide students with volunteer hours toward their Bright Futures scholarships.



“THE WATERSET COMMUNITY WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE RINGO FAMILY’S ABILITY TO FIND PEACE AND PURPOSE AFTER THE ACCIDENT. THIS CAME FROM PRAYERS, WORDS OF SUPPORT, FACEBOOK POSTS, CARDS IN THEIR MAILBOX, FLOWERS ON THEIR DOORSTEP, AND A WELL-ATTENDED CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR THEIR DAUGHTER.”

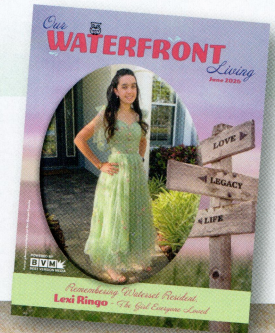


Lexi’s parents want fellow Waterset residents to understand the strong, direct connection that Lexi’s Legacy Fund has to our community. Lexi’s story started and sadly ended in this very neighborhood. Rather than living with the anger and hopelessness usually attached to these situations, Lexi’s parents and friends chose to create something positive and lasting from her death. If you would like to support Lexi’s Legacy Fund, visit LexisLegacyFund.org.

**Learn More @
LexisLegacyFund.org**

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