

THE OPERATION CHILD CARE PROJECT



Maria Quinn

Board Member, Military Family Experience, The Operation Child Care Project

Maria Quinn describes herself as one-half of a dual military family, and that's just the beginning of what makes her so awe-inspiring. Maria has served on active duty for over 15 years, first in the United States Air Force (USAF) and now as an officer in the United States Space Force (USSF). Her husband, John, is also serving on active duty in the USSF. While Maria continues to serve, this pioneering entrepreneur also founded her own company in 2022, Design Your Family Life (designyourfamilylife.com), to assist military families with military child care education and support.

Maria and her husband have both worked a variety of schedules and their careers have taken them across the globe. To ensure their children were lovingly cared for while serving their nation, they sought alternative care that best fit their family starting with the birth of their first child. Maria has painstakingly earned 12 years of experience hiring nannies and caregivers. Seeing this need within the Department of Defense (DoD), she has been leveraging her experience to help DoD families navigate their unique needs and options for child care during the past three years. "Quality, flexible child care is the only way my husband and I can both serve at the level we feel called to while simultaneously keeping our children first," Maria expresses. "We've learned how to navigate non-traditional care and we want to help families by reducing the stigma, the cost, and the stress surrounding those decisions," she explains.

In 2022, just as she was getting started with her company, Maria crossed paths with Kayla Corbitt, founder of The Operation Child Care Project (OCCP), a then-emerging 501(c)(3) non-profit with a mission to ensure military families have access to affordable, high-quality child care options, empowering them to pursue their career goals and create stable environments for their quality of life. "It was clear to both of us that we were committed to tackling how to best serve military families and leaders with child care education and support," Maria reflects.

Maria now serves on the board of directors for The Operation Child Care Project and lends her leadership, mentoring mindset, and personal military experience to support the mission of the non-profit. "I believe by meeting military families exactly where they are when navigating child care, we can positively impact force readiness, retention, and spouse employment," Maria shares.

Maria and her husband enjoy raising their five sons and one daughter who range between the ages of 11 months and 11 years old. In addition to homeschooling, basketball, baseball, and piano, the Quinns love to visit family, and Maria and John even sneak out for a dinner date as often as possible. They are currently working on the logistics of their upcoming military move from Northern Virginia to Florida.

To learn more or share the gift of your time, expertise, or financial support to further the work Maria and the team at OCCP are doing, visit occproject.org and stay tuned for updates on facebook.com/theoccproject.

