

THE OPERATION CHILD CARE PROJECT



Lizzie VanEeuwen

Board Secretary, The Operation Child Care Project

Lizzie VanEeuwen serves as Board Secretary for The Operation Child Care Project (OCCP), a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to ensuring 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.

Though not military-affiliated herself, Lizzie displays a steadfast commitment to advocating for those who serve and their families on the home front. “My passion lies in supporting military families,” she says. As a proud mama of two children, Lizzie shares, “Having experienced the challenges of finding quality and affordable child care during my family's frequent relocations over the past four years, I empathize with the struggles military families face. I'm dedicated to bridging the child care gap for military families, ensuring they have access to the best possible care.”

Introduced to OCCP by its founder and executive director, Kayla Corbitt, Lizzie was compelled to become involved because of her personal experiences with barriers to child care access. “Despite not having a military background, the struggles we encountered mirrored those experienced by military families. It was a defining period that fueled my passion for supporting military families,” Lizzie states.

While military spouses experience disparities in child care access in unequivocal proportions to their civilian counterparts, the realities of the circumstance are deeply familiar to many working mothers today. Lizzie describes, “As I navigated through the maze of child care barriers, the idea of making a difference took root. That's when I decided to join The Operation Child Care Project,” she says. “The personal impact of overcoming child care access barriers made me acutely aware of the potential difference it could have made in my life, marriage, and professional journey if reliable child care had always been there for us.” Now, in her role at OCCP, Lizzie is devoted to ensuring that other military families don't face the same challenges she experienced.

OCCP is formed on six pillars (values): Integrity, Inclusion, Passion, Support, Strength, and Independence. Lizzie says the pillar she identifies with the most is, “Passion – the passion to make a meaningful impact, to address the challenges faced by these families, and to contribute to a positive change. This is what keeps me dedicated,” Lizzie says about her work with OCCP. “It's more than just a role,” she continues, “it's a personal drive to ensure that the passion for making a difference translates into tangible support and improved access to quality child care for our military families.”

Lizzie encourages military mothers worldwide to keep sharing their stories to spread awareness of the need for affordable and quality child care for military families. To learn more and support the work Lizzie and the OCCP team are doing, visit occproject.org and stay tuned for updates on facebook.com/theoccproject.

