

THE OPERATION CHILD CARE PROJECT



Sara Feges

Board Treasurer, The Operation Child Care Project

When Sara Feges moved to Texas with her active-duty Air Force service member several years ago, she wanted to get involved with a local nonprofit. Sara researched on LinkedIn for nonprofits in San Antonio and The Operation Child Care Project (OCCP) popped up. “As I learned more about Kayla’s nonprofit, it kind of hit close to home. I sent her a message, shared that I have specialized experience in the nonprofit finance sector, and asked if she needed any help.”

Today, Sara serves on the OCCP Board of Directors and is an advocate of its mission. The OCCP is 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. As a military spouse of over 7 years, Sara reflects on her personal experience with military life and what would have been different had child care always been there for her from the beginning of motherhood. “It’s just such a big part of military life,” Sara explains. “We were in Hawaii prior to Texas, and that’s when I had my first child. I stopped working because we couldn’t get a daycare. We didn’t really have anybody. We had zero people we knew over there. My husband was working really long hours, and I was alone with a kid all the time. I literally stayed home for five years.”

Sara’s words likely resonate with nearly every military spouse on the planet. For spouses who want to get back to work after a military move or having a child, there are unique added challenges and barriers inherent in the military family lifestyle, like the lack of a local support network and childcare waiting lists. “It kind of gets hard, you know, when you kind of want to go back to work, just so that you have a little bit of social life and to not fall back on all the experience and career progression, but you can’t really do it,” Sara shares. While a lack of access to affordable child care has an obvious career impact, there are other economic and social-emotional impacts. Sara is originally from Slovenia, a small Central European country. She first moved to the United States in 2017. “My friends back in Europe, because they were all around families, you know, they could have date nights, and can always have somebody there to watch their kids. Me and my husband had exactly two dates in probably six years,” Sara laughs. “That’s what happens. It’s not as easy and nice as people think it is. It would be nice to have more affordable childcare, for one.”

Outside of her role with OCCP, Sarah is the Director of Finance for the nonprofit organization Military Veterans in Journalism (MVJ). Founded in 2019, MVJ is a professional association that builds community for vets, supports their career growth, and advocates for diversifying newsrooms through hiring and promoting more veterans in America’s newsrooms. Sara is also a tax and accounting specialist for a fully remote accounting services company, Reconciled, based in Vermont. Working remotely allows Sara to balance the family’s and her children’s schedules, pick-ups and drop-offs, all while hosting her daily online meetings and fitting in her focus work. This “Super Mom” is already making a powerful impact in this world, and it’s only going to grow bigger and brighter. “My oldest is now in school and my youngest is about to be 4. So, this August he will go into preschool...I don’t even know how it’s going to be to have 8 hours of uninterrupted time to do my work!”



Sara holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration and has worked in sales operations and event management. She is a mother to two young boys and a dog, enjoys spending time with her family, savoring walks in nature, and reading. To learn more about the work Sara and the team at OCCP are doing, visit occproject.org and stay tuned for updates on facebook.com/theoccproject.