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Dear Friend,

It is said *necessity is the mother of invention*, and I believe this is particularly true for military spouse professionals. Seldom are professional opportunities sitting and waiting to be plucked. Often, we have to carve our next steps and create our own opportunity. This process can be uncertain and daunting, but it can also be tremendously rewarding. Military spouse professionals are uniquely positioned to see a need and step up to address it.

Our featured spouses this month have done just that. While their circumstances are wildly different, each spouse has built or is building something much bigger than herself to benefit the community around her. It is a pleasure to introduce you to **Teal Jennings Yost**, **Laura Winthrop Abbot**, and **Kate McKinney**.

INTRODUCING

Teal Jennings Yost has recently assumed the position of Executive Director of The Other Side of Service. She comes to this position with nearly a decade of experience in television and journalism.

We created OSS to fill a gap in the market. While many organizations are working tirelessly on military spouse employment, we are the only group to provide expansive interviews with spouses about their professional experiences. These stories add layers and dimensions to this issue, which we believe are vital to making progress. Teal has stepped up to address our needs as an organization, and we can't wait to see where she takes us next.

Six weeks after **Laura Winthrop Abbot** moved to Japan with her military spouse, the Great East Japan Earthquake struck the country, causing a giant tsunami and widespread devastation in the Tohoku region. Laura didn't hesitate and immediately sought ways to help those affected. Her initial efforts grew into a long term initiative to provide relief and recovery called the TOMODACHI Initiative.

Kate McKenney, a Marine Corps spouse, craved another preschool option for her children near their duty station at the time. Kate's background in education and school administration gave her the credentials to open up a school but it was her personal courage which gave her the gumption to start the New Bern Cooperative Preschool.

We hope these spouses inspire you to look carefully at the world around you and address the needs in your community. As military spouse professionals, we have the potential to do a great deal of good wherever this life takes us.

Warmly,

Lynn Waidelich

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