



As Seen In

*O, The Oprah Magazine & Entrepreneur*

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# BUILDING AN IMPACTFUL LEGACY

**JMA Solutions is a service-disabled veteran-, minority-, and woman-owned business on a mission to make a difference.**

**F**our decades ago, Jan Adams was a divorced mom living on welfare. Today, she's the President and CEO of an award-winning, 150-employee government consulting firm.

How did she arrive here?

It started with a dream to see the world. With two elementary-aged children in tow, she enlisted in the United States Air Force. In the 24 years of service that followed, Adams lived in Germany, Greece, South Korea, and Honduras.

When she retired in 2000, she began working as a contractor for the Federal Aviation Administration. Five years later, at the suggestion of a former client, she launched JMA Solutions and transformed from employee to independent consultant.

"I'm the kind of person who, if you suggest it and it makes

sense, you don't have to tell me twice. So, I just jumped into it," Adams recalls.

## Growing a Business Where People Want to Work

In 2008, when offered a \$6.5 million contract to hire former air traffic controllers, Adams hired her first employee. With a dedication to honesty, professionalism, and hard work, it didn't take long for additional contracts to be awarded. In addition to air traffic expertise, her firm also offers software development, engineering, program management, and training support.

"I've always been very concerned about not growing too fast," Adams says. "I contribute much of my success to my management team, which consists of mostly former military personnel as well as other professionals."



Jan Adams,  
President and CEO

Photos by LemCa

To this day, every employee receives a gift card on their birthday. Employees also enjoy such perks as suites at Redskins and Capitals games, floor seats at Wizards games, a summer company picnic, and a winter holiday party. "I try to make the office atmosphere one where people feel like family," says Adams, whose two children work in the business alongside her.

Perhaps, then, it's no surprise that JMA Solutions was named a 2016 Top Workplace by The Washington Post—an elite honor based solely on employee surveys.

## In the Community

JMA Solutions supports multiple nonprofit organizations including the District of Columbia's Adopt-a-School Program, Toys for Tots, the USO, and the Down Syndrome Foundation. Adams is also a donor to the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Her contributions have garnered numerous accolades—most

recently, the prestigious DC Chamber of Commerce Community Impact Award and recognition as a Washington Business Journal Minority Business Leader. The awards are nice, Adams concedes, but it's the ability to employ other veterans and make a difference in the community that make her most proud of her legacy.

Her advice to aspiring business leaders? "If you have a dream, follow it. If you stumble and fall along the way, get up, keep pursuing that dream, and you will succeed."



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