

Aimee Snoddy



Aimee is a mother, public servant, and longtime leader in Texas public safety who credits a lot of her success to the marriage that her parents lovingly modeled for 55 years. For her, growing up with that example was a gift she wanted to emulate.

Aimee's life has been shaped by a commitment to family and community. Raised in Pflugerville, Texas, she met her husband as high school sweethearts and they built their life together with determination and purpose, raising two daughters – Kimber Nichole Snoddy (28) and Megan Elizabeth Snoddy (24) – who remain at the heart of everything Aimee does.

For Aimee, motherhood is not defined by a single moment but rather an intentional effort to be present throughout each stage of life.

One of those stages came during a family rafting trip to Tennessee on the Pigeon River in 2022. What began as a getaway vacation quickly turned into a powerful lesson when a nearby raft flipped and strangers risked their lives to help one another in a life-or-death situation. As Aimee witnessed her family respond with calm and courage, she realized that parenting is equal parts preparation and surrender.

“There are things in life we cannot predict. We can only control how we respond and how we guide ourselves and our families through it,” Aimee admits.

That same day, the tragedy of the Uvalde Robb Elementary School shooting snapped that lesson into even sharper focus, reinforcing her belief in the importance of presence, compassion and gratitude for each day.

That lesson is critical to her career, too. After graduating from the University of Texas, she began her career at the Governor's Office, where she spent nearly three decades supporting victim services and public safety efforts across Texas, rising through the ranks to become Executive Director of the Public Safety Office.

“I learned early on that leadership isn't about being the loudest voice in the room,” she says, echoing the philosophy she learned from years of watching her mother's work in public service. “It's about making sure others have what they need to succeed and lifting people up along the way.”

Aimee's hopes remain focused on the future, both for her daughters and for the communities she has long served. She envisions a world steered by servant leadership where people feel safe, supported and valued.

This Mother's Day, we honor not only Aimee's role as a mother, but her enduring commitment to service, resilience and the belief that even small acts can leave a lasting impact.

Maisha Colter



Maisha Colter has had a lot of teachers in her life, but perhaps none so as impactful as her own mother. Maisha grew up in awe of her mother's tenacious spirit, which shaped her values of discipline, resilience and striving to leave every community better than she found it.

Today, Maisha is the Chief Executive Officer for Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA), a Houston nonprofit with a mission to end family violence by advocating for the safety and self-determination of victims. She is committed to supporting domestic violence survivors, guided by a belief that service is both a responsibility and a calling. Every day, Maisha puts her dual undergraduate degrees in Policy Studies and Social Work to good use, along with her Master of Social Work from New York University and a Juris Doctor from Rutgers University. She is dedicated to creating pathways to safety, stability and healing for survivors and their families.

Ask Maisha what drives her work, and she'll point to her upbringing, her own daughter, and the people she serves. Raised in a working-class, military family instilled a lifelong commitment in Maisha to make a meaningful contribution. That foundation deepened as she became a mother in her own right and witnessed the extraordinary women she serves shape a better world for their families and future generations.

Maisha's proudest role is being a mother to her daughter, Chelsea, who is turning 16 this year. She finds that the most memorable moments are in watching her daughter grow into her own person – discovering how Chelsea continues to set and achieve ambitious goals, particularly in academics and in sports.

"Those moments are deeply meaningful because they reflect the impact of parenting over time. I see these amazing and inspiring values taking root in her and blooming," says Maisha. "She is my greatest motivation and my ultimate legacy."

As a young woman, Chelsea is witnessing the vital role her mother plays in providing life-saving services to other young women.

"My hope is that my work not only contributes to safer communities but also instills in my daughter a deep appreciation for empathy, resilience and service," Maisha admits.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to building safer communities and for leading by example both in your work and at home, Maisha. This Mother's Day, the Texas Council on Family Violence honors you for your dedication and the legacy you are building for the next generation.

Marissa Cano



Marissa Cano is a survivor of domestic violence. She's also a mom. In both cases, she has experienced the importance of perseverance and the value of community.

Born and raised in Fort Worth, Marissa later made the Rio Grande Valley her home, where she has spent over two decades building both her life and her career. For the past 14 years, she has worked in Health and Human Services, dedicating herself to addressing some of the most urgent issues facing communities today, including domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and child abuse.

As a survivor, she brings a lived understanding of hardship and healing into every space she enters. It's what has shaped her servant leadership, which is grounded in empathy, humility and a commitment to meeting people exactly where they are.

"Leadership is not about having all the answers, but about creating space for others to be heard and helping them recognize their own strength," she says. "Leadership should be deeply personal." And for her, it is. That's perhaps never truer than in her journey as a mother. When Marissa describes how proud she is of Nicholas Cristian Cano (29), she can't select one single moment to highlight. Instead, it's more of a marathon of moments that just keeps going. It takes perseverance and a great support system to make motherhood work, and Marissa values every minute of it.

"Nicholaus has gone through some challenging moments in life, but even in the hardest seasons he keeps moving forward with resilience – and I'm here to support him in doing that. Those moments are everything to me," she says.

In many ways, watching her son build his life reminds her of herself and those she serves. She's constantly surrounded by individuals and families seeking to build better lives for themselves. They exhibit incredible resilience on a daily basis.

As long as there are individuals, families and communities that aren't safe, Marissa is here to serve. But she does long for a day when the kind of resilience that survivors exhibit isn't required. Her vision for the future is rooted in communities where everyone feels supported, valued and empowered to change their circumstances.

This Mother's Day, we celebrate not only Marissa's role as a mother but her profound impact in lifting others. Thank you, Marissa, for your strength and unwavering commitment to building safer communities.