

# *A Must-See Speaker: Shari Rusch Furnstahl, M.Ed*



## *Credentials*

*Shari Rusch Furnstahl earned a bachelor of art's degree in psychology, a graduate degree in teaching, an endorsement in special education, and a master's degree in education with an emphasis in "at-risk" students and multi-cultural issues from the University of Washington. A sought-after presenter, Shari has traveled extensively throughout the United States and Canada speaking at schools, churches and conferences since 1987. Shari has provided keynote addresses at schools, churches and conferences to audiences from 500 to 20,000.*

**Visit [www.sharirusch.com](http://www.sharirusch.com) for booking information, keynote and workshop topics and news about her new book *From Stumbling Blocks To Stepping Stones*.**

*Hilarious at one moment and poignant the next, Shari's inspirational story provides the backdrop for incredible presentations. The perfect speaker to keep everyone laughing and learning; each speech is perfectly tailored to meet the needs of event planners including workshops and keynote speeches for church and school staff, youth events, and women's retreats.*

**B**y the time Shari was in first grade, thick medical and academic files described her limitations and "disabilities." Assessments had confirmed the worst about her future. Experiencing severe vision, hearing, learning and physical challenges, it was believed Shari would never reach beyond the fifth grade level as an adult. Her parents were told to put her in an institution. Thankfully, that isn't where her story would end. Teachers, peers and family members willing to offer assistance and encouragement, gave hope and new direction every time she reached a dead end. With the support of those around her and a steely determination, Shari was able to succeed far beyond those early assessments. From a clumsy child with a speech impediment... from a student few believed could learn... to becoming a special education teacher, Shari's story is about the triumph of the human spirit and the blessing that can only come from God.

Shari's triumphant struggle with her education is just part of her fascinating story. As a "latchkey" child from a single-parent household, Shari spent most of her childhood dealing with separation, divorce, blended families, economic challenges and other "at-risk" factors that were as threatening as the issues she faced at school. Held afloat by a mustard seed of faith, Shari prayed for healing in her family and asked that the Lord enable her to create a different life than the one she was experiencing. Now as a wife, mother and teacher, she has seen those prayers answered and stands as a living testimony of God's faithfulness. Shari's story is an inspiring testimony offering a window of hope and encouragement for those seeking the Lord's intervention in their lives. At moments hilarious and at others poignant, her captivating presentation style brings her personal story of hope to life and encourages everyone to believe that anything is possible.

## *Impressions*

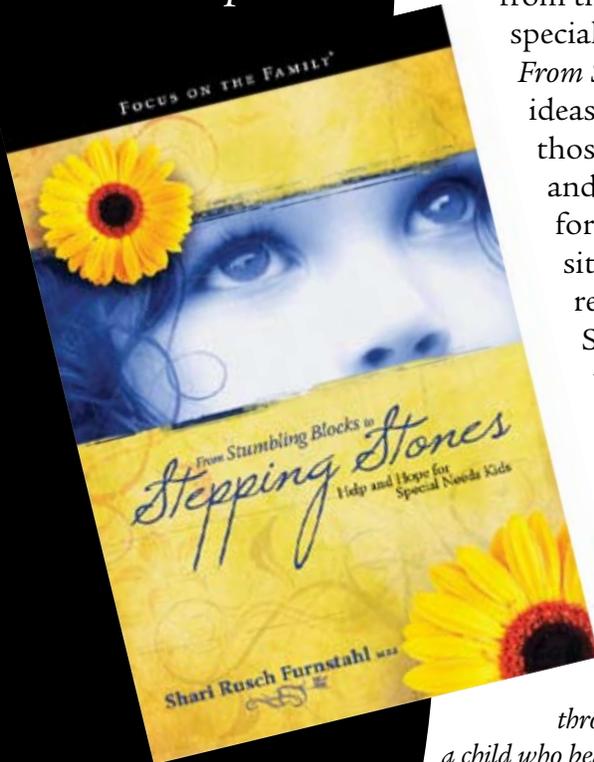
*"I cannot thank you (Shari) enough for your valuable time and talents. You come out number one in my book. We have been extremely successful in having a top-notch keynote presenter, and you were no exception. Not only was your presentation excellent, you also provided a lot of support to those in attendance. You were most inspiring. I sometimes think we forget why we are in the field of special education. You helped remind us."* **Leo D. Sandoval, Administrator, California State Department of Education**

*"Because of your Christian attitude and God's love, which radiated from every word and action, the little angel that God sent to me eleven years ago is forever changed. Your framed picture hangs in her bedroom as a constant inspiration and reminder that through Him all things are indeed possible. God has certainly turned your suffering and pain into a wonderful blessing as you share your testimony of His will and grace in your life with young people across our great country."* **Genie McMillan, Parent, Atlanta, Georgia**

**Conferences Workshops Retreats Special Events**

# Motivating Inspiring Humerous Heartwarming

*From Stumbling  
Blocks to Stepping  
Stones on Sale Sept. 1!*



## **A Must-Read!**

*From Stepping Stones to Stumbling Blocks* is an inspirational and humorous story of a learning disabled, “at-risk” child’s journey from the back of the class to the head of the class; from a special education student to special education teacher, *From Stumbling Blocks to Stepping Stones* features practical ideas and sound advice to help every child, including those with special needs, to achieve beyond assessments and reach their potential. This book is a must read for anyone; a story that affirms hope even in difficult situations and confirms that we can make a difference regardless of adversity. Written in a conversation style, Shari’s books is so funny and so real you won’t be able to put it down.

*“In From Stumbling Blocks to Stepping Stones, Shari so poignantly describes the suffering she experienced as a learning-disabled child, yet her sense of humor and determination shine through. It jars the imagination to realize that a child deemed uneducable—even recommended for institutionalization—became a poised and gifted national lecturer with her master’s degree in education! Shari is one of those rare people whose speaking and writing incites a lump in the throat one moment, then bursts of laughter and cheers the next, all for a child who beat incredible odds. Her insights about educational methods that helped and hindered her will impact teachers and offer great hope to struggling students and the parents who love and guide them.”* **Laurie Winslow Sargent, Author of *Delight in Your Child’s Design***

*“Shari’s story captures her charismatic style and personality in a humorous, engaging way. The reader is brought from laughter to tears as the agonies of Shari’s struggle are described from the aspect of a child looking out through thick, horn-rimmed glasses. Every teacher who has attempted to teach students like Shari will find new ideas to reach them through the pages of this book. Every parent who has felt the pain of a child who could not sit still will be encouraged by Shari’s mother’s steadfast belief in her daughter.*

*Those who struggle to learn will find that their difficulties are probably not as great as Shari’s. Her power to overcome is a clear testimony of a faithful God who redeems all trials and turns them into stepping stones. Bravo, Shari. I salute you!”*

**Dr. Kathleen R. Hopkins, Executive Director,  
National Institute for Learning Development  
(NILD)**



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