

## Sharon Lechter CPA, CGMA



A life-long education advocate, Sharon Lechter is the founder and CEO of Pay Your Family First, a financial education organization, and YOUTHpreneur, an innovative new way to spark the entrepreneurial spirit in our children.

In 2009 Sharon was appointed to the National CPA Financial Literacy Commission as a national spokesperson on the topic of financial literacy. In 2008 Sharon was appointed to the first President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy. The Council served both President Bush and President Obama advising them on the need for financial literacy education.

Sharon is an entrepreneur, author, philanthropist, educator, international speaker, licensed CPA, Chartered Global Management Accountant and, most importantly a mother and grandmother. She has been a pioneer in developing new technologies, programs and products to bring education into children's lives in ways that are innovative, challenging and fun, and remains committed to education – particularly financial literacy. In 1989 she joined forces with the inventor of the first electronic 'talking book' and helped him expand the electronic book industry to a multi-million dollar international market. Since 1992, she has dedicated her professional life and directed her entrepreneurial efforts in the creation and distribution of financial education books, games and other experiential learning products.

In 1997 Sharon co-authored the international bestseller *Rich Dad Poor Dad*, along with 14 other books in the Rich Dad series. Over 10 years as CEO she led the Rich Dad Company and brand into an international powerhouse. In 2008 she was asked by the Napoleon Hill Foundation to help re-energize the powerful teachings of Napoleon Hill just as the international economy was faltering. Her bestselling books, *Think and Grow Rich-Three Feet from Gold* and *Outwitting the Devil* were both written in cooperation with the Napoleon Hill Foundation. Sharon's most recent book project is *Save Wisely, Spend Happily*, in cooperation with the American Institute of CPAs. Current projects in development with Napoleon Hill Foundation include *Think and Grow Rich For Women* and *Think and Grow Rich for Kids*.

Her financial literacy board game ThriveTime for Teens, an innovative experiential and fun life and money reality game, has gained recognition with coveted awards including the GOLD Mom's Choice Award, Creative Child Magazine's 2010 Game of The Year, Dr. Toy's Best Vacation Product and a five-star rating from WTS Toy Reviews. Sharon is recognized globally as an expert on the topics of financial education for children and entrepreneurship.

A committed philanthropist, Sharon also gives back to world communities as both a volunteer and benefactor. She is a member of the Business Advisory Board for EmpowHER, a company dedicated to women's health issues. Sharon also serves on the national board of the Women Presidents' Organization, and the national board of Childhelp, a national organization founded to prevent and treat child abuse. In 2013 Sharon received the designation of AICPA Financial Literacy Champion. Sharon is also an Instructor for Thunderbird School of Global Management for both its Artemis Program and its partnership with the U.S. Department of State and Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women program. Sharon was also integral in the passage of Arizona SB1449 in June of 2013, a bill that requires financial literacy concepts to permanently be incorporated into economics standards and created a separate statute for those concepts.

In 2002, Childhelp honored Sharon and her husband, Michael, as recipients of the Spirit of the Children Award. In 2004, Sharon and Michael were recognized as an Arizona "Power Couple," and Sharon was also named as a 2005 Woman of Distinction by the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America. She was honored with a 2012 Positively Powerful Women award for Philanthropic Leadership, by the Phoenix Business Journal as one of 2013's 25 Dynamic Women in Business, and most recently honored by National Bank of Arizona with the 2013 Woman of the Year award and Arizona Business Magazine as one of the 50 most Influential Women in Arizona Business.

For more information, please visit [www.sharonlechter.com](http://www.sharonlechter.com).