



Mary Sterk Bio

Mary Sterk, CFP®, CPFA® is the Founding Partner & CEO of Sterk Financial Services (www.sterkfinancialservices.com), which is headquartered in Dakota Dunes, SD and has a second location in Kansas City. Mary's inspirational story is one of fighting her way from Welfare to Wealth Management despite a teenage pregnancy, living in low-income housing, and raising two small children while subsisting on food stamps. Mary has been named to two *Forbes* lists for eight years running, including *Forbes* Best-in-State Wealth Advisors and *Forbes* Top Women Wealth Advisors.

During her 30 year career, Mary authored two books, ***Ready To Pull The Retirement Trigger?***, and ***Buy It: The Practical Guide To Buying a Financial Services Book Of Business***. She developed her radio show / podcast, *Money Guide With Mary Sterk*, to educate and inspires listeners to create their best financial future.

Mary also has an artistic side, and has created uplifting messages of hope through her art via Just Mary Designs (www.justmarydesigns.com). In her down time, she enjoys spending time with her three children and one grandson.

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Forbes "Best-in-State Wealth Advisors" list, (April, 2025). The ranking for this list by SHOOK Research is based on due diligence meetings to evaluate each advisor qualitatively, a major component of a ranking algorithm that includes: client retention, industry experience, review of compliance records, firm nominations; and quantitative criteria, including: assets under management and revenue generated for their firms. Forbes is a trademark of Forbes Media LLC. All rights reserved. Rankings and recognition from Forbes/SHOOK Research are no guarantee of future investment success and do not ensure that a current or prospective client will experience a higher level of performance results and such rankings should not be construed as an endorsement of the advisor.

Forbes "America's Top Women Wealth Advisors" ranking was developed by SHOOK Research and is based on in-person and telephone due diligence meetings and a ranking algorithm that includes: client retention, industry experience, review of compliance records, firm nominations; and quantitative criteria, including: assets under management and revenue generated for their firms. Investment performance is not a criterion because client objectives and risk tolerances vary, and advisors rarely have audited performance reports. Rankings are based on the opinions of SHOOK Research, LLC and not representative nor indicative of any one client's experience, future performance, or investment outcome. Neither Forbes nor SHOOK Research receives compensation in exchange for placement on the ranking. Rankings and recognition from Forbes are no guarantee of future investment success

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