



connect with your **grandkids**



FocusOnTheFamily.com

A Focus on the Family Resource Published
by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.





connect with your
grandkids

fun ways to bridge the miles

Cheri Fuller



Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.
Carol Stream, Illinois

Connect with Your Grandkids

Copyright © 2009 by Cheri Fuller

All rights reserved. International copyright secured.

A Focus on the Family book published by
Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188

Focus on the Family and the accompanying logo and design are trademarks of
Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, CO 80995.

TYNDALE and Tyndale's quill logo are registered trademarks of Tyndale House
Publishers, Inc.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New
International Version®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible
Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.
Scripture quotations marked (MSG) are taken from The Message (paraphrase).
Copyright © by Eugene H. Peterson 1993, 1994, 1995. Used by permission of NavPress
Publishing Group.

The use of material from or references to various Web sites does not imply endorsement
of those sites in their entirety.

All stories in this book are true and are used by permission.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted
in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or other-
wise—without prior written permission of Focus on the Family.

Editor: Kathy Davis

Cover design by Erik M. Peterson

Cover photograph copyright © by PhotoAlto/Eric Audras/Jupiter Images. All
rights reserved.

Interior design by Lois Keffer

The author is represented by the literary agency of Alive Communications
Inc., 7680 Goddard Street, Suite 200, Colorado Springs, CO 80920,
www.alivecommunications.com.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

ISBN-10: 1-58997-536-7

ISBN-13: 978-1-58997-536-1

Printed in the United States of America

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 / 15 14 13 12 11 10 09

When we looked through this book we wondered, “Why didn’t we think of that?” There are so many great ideas we don’t know where to start! *Connect with Your Grandkids* is a must-read for grandparents who want to energize their relationship with their grandkids.

—GARY AND NORMA SMALLEY

Founders of Smalley Relationship Center

What a great collection of stories, tips, insights, and fun-filled ideas on how to support, love, and be a positive spiritual influence in our grandchildren’s lives. We all need ideas for what to do with our grandkids that will be fun and make wonderful memories—and this is the book. I’m so glad Cheri said, “Just be yourself.” I got a paper and pen and started writing down the things that clicked with my personality. I couldn’t put the book down—I got so energized, I wanted to do it all!

Thank you, Cheri, for taking the time to gather and pass on to us all this great information from so many grandparents, as well as your own experiences.

—FERN NICHOLS

Founder and President, Moms In Touch
International

Once again, Cheri Fuller is ministering to families with a great resource. This book is for today’s grandparents who are passionate about their grandchildren but need practical, inspiring ways to solidly bond with them. I have eight grandchildren eight years old and under, and I can’t wait to get started implementing ideas from Cheri and other fabulous grandparents.

—DENISE GLENN

Founder, MotherWise Ministries and
Kardo International Ministries

Sign us up! Cheri Fuller has taken away all excuses for being uninvolved grandparents. She has given us a treasure trove of ways to bond with those wonderful grandkids.

Whether you were as effective as you wanted to be as a parent, grandparenting offers all of us a chance to once again groom a generation for greatness. It's not often we get such a significant second chance. *Connect with Your Grandkids* gives us hands-on ways to make this a reality.

Grandparenthood is far more than rocking chairs. It is a second chance to do all of the “ought-tos” and “should-haves” that the busyness and demands of daily parenthood kept us from doing. With her practical, hands-on suggestions, Cheri Fuller has done all of the hard work for us. Now the fun can begin!

—TIM AND DARCY KIMMEL

Authors of *Extreme Grandparenting*

Founders of Family Matters

What a privilege grandparenting is! And a great principle that we use daily is to begin with the end in mind: How do you want your grandchildren to remember you? As fun? Interested in them? Joyful? Creative? A great storyteller? Encouraging? When we connect from our hearts and are deliberate in making the most of every opportunity by making activities fun and lighthearted for them, relationships are grounded in love and become life-changing places of refuge for the grandkids—and even more so for us as grandparents.

If you've ever asked “Now that I'm a grandparent, what do I do?” read this outstanding book you're holding and not only will you know what to do next, it will also show you how to become a real family champion. It is both practical and life changing.

Absolutely every grandparent needs a copy of this book! Grab a copy for yourself or give one to a grandparent in your life. Way to go, Cheri—your book is outstanding!

—DR. GARY AND BARB ROSBERG

America's Family Coaches

Founders of The Great Marriage Experience

Speakers, authors, national radio-program co-hosts

Also by Cheri Fuller

- The One Year Women's Friendship Devotional*
A Busy Woman's Guide to Prayer: Forget the Guilt & Find the Gift
Loving Your Spouse Through Prayer
The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible
Raising Motivated Kids
School Starts at Home
Talkers, Watchers, & Doers: Unlocking Your Child's
Learning Potential
The Mom You're Meant to Be: Loving Your Kids While
Leaning On God
Opening Your Child's Spiritual Windows
Opening Your Child's Nine Learning Windows
When Mothers Pray
When Teens Pray
When Families Pray
When Couples Pray
When Children Pray
Extraordinary Kids: Nurturing and Championing Your Child
with Special Needs
Fearless: Building a Faith That Overcomes Your Fear
A Fresh Vision of Jesus: Timeless Ways to Experience Christ
Quiet Whispers from God's Heart for Women
The Fragrance of Kindness
21 Days to Helping Your Child Learn
Teaching Your Child to Write
Motherhood 101
Christmas Treasures of the Heart
365 Ways to Develop Your Child's Values
365 Ways to Build Your Child's Self-Esteem
365 Ways to Help Your Child Learn

Dedication



To my parents, George and Mildred Heath, who, though their lives were short, loved their children and grandchildren dearly. And to my parents-in-law, Jack and Joan Fuller (Mimi), who loved our children and grandchildren well.

As the only living grandparent, Mimi, you've been the grandest great-Mimi of all.

And to my grandchildren,

Caitlin

Caleb

Noah

Luke

Josephine

and Lucy,

I wouldn't be Nandy without YOU!

You light up my life!

Contents

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

CHAPTER ONE

The Joy of Connecting with Our Grandchildren.....1

CHAPTER TWO

Sharing Your Interests and Theirs.....12

CHAPTER THREE

Just-for-Fun Stuff to Do with Grandkids.....25

CHAPTER FOUR

Grand Sleepovers.....37

CHAPTER FIVE

Connecting Your Grandkids through Cousin Camps.....46

CHAPTER SIX

Traveling with Your Grandkids.....61

CHAPTER SEVEN

Visiting—at Your House and Theirs.....77

CHAPTER EIGHT

You've Got Mail: Connecting through Letters and Cards.....92

CHAPTER NINE

Connecting Via the Internet and Technology.....107

CHAPTER TEN

Connecting through Photos and Memory Albums.....121

CHAPTER ELEVEN	
Connecting through Arts and Crafts.....	131
CHAPTER TWELVE	
Someone's in the Kitchen with Grandma.....	143
CHAPTER THIRTEEN	
Connecting through Storytelling.....	154
CHAPTER FOURTEEN	
Encouraging Your Grandchildren's Reading.....	169
CHAPTER FIFTEEN	
Being a Spiritual Influence in Your Grandkids' Lives.....	182
CHAPTER SIXTEEN	
Connecting Heart to Heart: Praying for Your Grandkids.....	191
CHAPTER SEVENTEEN	
The Best Gifts of All.....	203
CHAPTER EIGHTEEN	
Passing It On.....	211

Acknowledgments



It's been a joy to write this book and meet some of the most awesome and creative people I've ever talked to, from east to west, north to south. When I became a grandparent, I didn't have a grid to follow. My grandparents were quite old by the time I came along, and we were such a big bunch of children—six in all. So when the time came, I was eager to learn from other grandparents; it's been quite a learning curve! I was inspired by Mom, who was a praying and involved grandma to her 22 grandchildren until she died at age 59. And I'm immensely grateful for sweet Mimi, our beloved only grandparent, and Lynn and Dru, the greatest great-aunts in the world.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all the grandmas and grandpas who shared their experiences and ideas—especially Peggy Powell, Cheri Potter, Phyllis Stanley, and Janet Page, who planted the seed for a grandparent book in my mind years ago. Thank you to all those who prayed as I wrote this book: dear Janet, Peggy Stewart, Peggy Powell, Betsy West, Glenna Miller, Doris Little, Kathy Wirth, Cynthia Tonn, Susan Stewart, Corrie Sargeant, Cynthia Morris, Patty Johnston, and Jill Miller.

I'm so grateful to have a great editor in Kathy Davis, and to Larry Weeden who caught the vision for my book. Thanks to Focus on the Family and Tyndale House Publishers for the opportunity to once again partner with you in building families and encouraging parents and grandparents!



The Joy of Connecting with Our Grandchildren

Grandchildren are very special. Perhaps that's why they are called "grand" children. And we grandparents are "grand" to them too.

—Dick Ayers

I waved good-bye to my daughter-in-law as she carried our three-week-old grandbaby Josephine through security to an American Airlines jet; it would take them across the country from Oklahoma to Bethesda, Maryland, where they would meet our son Chris and settle into their new home. As I prayed for their safety and protection, I also whispered a prayer: "Lord, help me connect heart to heart with Josephine, even though she's going to live so far away." Little did I know that a year later they would move even farther away, across the ocean to Hawaii where her dad was assigned to serve as Battalion Surgeon for the Marines. From there they would eventually move to Wisconsin.

A few years later, our oldest son and his wife packed their Explorer and two more of our grandchildren, Caitlin and Caleb, and moved away to Cincinnati, Ohio. Two years later they would move on to St. Louis. Because they'd spent the first few years of their lives only 15 minutes from us, we had enjoyed

wonderful times together and developed a great bond of love. Now they too would be in another state. Waving to them as they drove out of the driveway, I prayed, “Lord, help me stay connected to these sweet grandkids, even though they’ll be 13 hours away.” God has graciously answered that prayer by giving me many creative ideas and crossing my path with some special grandparents who shared their experiences. With God’s help I’ve built loving relationships with my grandchildren, who now number six—three girls and three boys—and range in age from eleven years old to two: Caitlin, Caleb, Noah, Luke, Josephine, and Lucy.

*“Where does your grandma live?” “Oh, she lives at the airport. And when we want her we just go get her. Then when we’re done having her visit, we take her back to the airport.”
—an eight-year-old*

Spanning the Distance

Like me, millions of Baby Boomers have become grandparents with families scattered across the country. Baby Boomers now comprise over 30 percent of the population. These grandparents may be busy with careers, travel, and activities of their own, but they want to connect with their grandkids, make memories, and be a loving influence despite geographical separation. I’ve talked with grandparents all over the nation as well as overseas who share a great bond with grandchildren in faraway places. A wise person once said that it doesn’t matter where you live, it matters who you are. How encouraging that our prayers can span the geographical distance between ourselves and our grandchildren and build a legacy of love that bridges the generations! The sweet memory of times together and encouraging words can last a lifetime.

It’s the Little Things

One of the best things I’ve learned from interviewing other grandparents is that it’s the little things done consistently and

lovingly that build a great relationship—not just the big splash! In this book, you'll find plenty of those little things, in addition to touching stories and quotes on the value and blessing of being a grandparent.

Whether it's using a webcam to read a bedtime story, making small, personalized photo albums to take home after a visit, sending e-cards to share your interests, or taking a trip together, this book is full of practical ideas for building relationships with your grandchildren, whether they live down the block or across the country.

Different Sizes and Ages

There are all kinds of grandparents. We come in different sizes, ages, shapes, and life situations. Grandparents today seem younger than grandparents did in the past due to better health and a more active lifestyle. I've met some terrific grandparents in their 70s and beyond who are still actively involved in their grandchildren's lives.

There are first-time grandmas who are so overjoyed about their darling, smartest-kid-in-the-nursery grandchild that they bring out a brag book at every opportunity. Some grandparents have been blessed many times over and find themselves spread a bit thin keeping in touch with all their grandchildren, but love them just the same. Others have teenage grandsons and granddaughters who are in the midst of difficult situations quite different from anything the grandparents encountered at that age.

Some grandparents live near enough to pick up their grandchild once a week, which makes bonding easier. Others have three sets of grandkids living in three different parts of the country, which makes building relationships more challenging. Some are single and some are married. There are grandparents who have lots of money to take their grandchildren on lovely trips. Others have more limited budgets, but do a great job of

**A child is born only once,
but a grandparent
is reborn with each
new grandchild.
—Joan Holleman**

connecting with their grandkids in their own backyards. Some grandparents are retired and have lots of time to travel across the country to visit their grandchildren. Others are busy with a career, full-time or part-time, but still want to be a blessing to their grandsons and granddaughters.

They make my spirits soar!

—**Jackie Kennedy Onassis**
on her grandchildren

You may be Poppy and Wa Wa or Mimi and Gramps, Oma and Opa (German-Dutch names

for grandparents), or Nana and Boomp. Some of the most fun grandparent names I've heard are Tootsie and Pops and Honey and GranDan. My husband and I are called Nandy and Poppa because that's what our first granddaughter decided to call us. I know a Ga-Ga and DuPah and Nonny and Papps. Then there's Ama White Car; Ann's twin grandboys creatively designed that name for her and it stuck. That takes the cake!

No matter what name we're called or how different we are, there's one thing we all have in common: a desire to connect with our grandchildren! That's why you picked up this book. We want to love them and be a support and positive influence in their lives.

Let me assure you, grandparents are not obsolete! They hold an important place in the life of every family. Families have changed: There are more divorces and an increased number of single moms (and dads). This trend greatly affects grandparenting, and sometimes brings step-grandchildren into our lives. Because families are more mobile than ever, with frequent moves for corporate or military assignments, there's more long-distance grandparenting. Children today are often plugged-in and overscheduled, which presents yet another challenge in trying to build a relationship.

This is especially true of teens and preteens. As we know from raising kids, it can be challenging to connect with older kids. Their world is expanding rapidly and they may likely be more interested in their friends than family members—even you,

their beloved grandparents! But if you've built a relationship when they were young and continue to keep in touch occasionally by e-mailing, dropping a card by snail mail, or sending short text messages, they'll feel your love and support across the miles. It will make a difference in their lives even if they don't tell you so right now. As someone once said, we can either be a port in the storm or a part of the storm. How much better to be a support and offer your 'tween and teen grandchildren your unconditional love and an open door at your home—that is, when they can find a little space in their planners for you!

It's a difficult time to be raising children. The pressures on today's families are increasing as parents struggle to balance work with family. There are stresses and threats to children's well-being that didn't exist when we were raising our children: school violence, Internet predators, pressure to perform, and substance abuse at very young ages, to name just a few.

That's why grandparents are needed more than ever—not only to support fatigued parents, but also to be life-givers who provide a much-needed sense of stability, security, and unconditional love. We can make a tremendous difference in the lives of our grandsons and granddaughters, whether they are two or eighteen, simply by believing in them and staying connected.

What Kind of Grandparent Will You Be?

You can be any kind of grandparent you choose to be! There are Cookie-Baking Grandmas whose creativity is best expressed in the kitchen; they love to involve their grandkids in making bread, cinnamon rolls, or homemade pizzas. There are Artsy Grandparents who share their interest in art and crafts with their grandchildren.

There are Reading Grandmas, like Linda Zachry, who wrote me this note.

My husband and I live in Dallas, Texas, but my granddaughter lives with her parents in Redondo Beach, California. Despite

the distance, I see Paige at least every three months and she already loves for me to read books to her. I've shared classics like Goodnight Moon, Pat the Bunny, Noah's Ark, illustrated by Peter Spier, and The Little Engine That Could. I love being a reading grandmother.

I recently met a spunky, 5'2" Marathon Grandma who is 67 years old and just completed her 50th marathon in three years—one in every state in the U.S.! Her 10-year-old grandson has started joining her in 10K kids' races. This shared experience has built a great connection between them.

There are Outdoor Grandparents like me and others I know who enjoy nothing better than taking bike rides, going to the zoo on a sunny day, or taking the grandkids fishing for the afternoon. (When it comes to fishing, I'm talking about Grandpa, not me!) For some grandparents, the best way of connecting is taking the children on an annual camping trip. I've even met Teaching Grandmas who hold Spanish or etiquette classes for their grandchildren.

There's the Power-Visit Grandma who doesn't get to see her grandkids very often. When she does, it's a whirlwind of fun and activities. The Theatrical Grandparent writes plays for her grandkids to perform at Christmas and other special occasions. One of my personal favorites is Patty, the Zany Grandma, who tinges her beautiful white hair with pink just because she enjoys it (her grandsons do too).

My sister Marilyn is a hands-on Science Grandma who helps her little grandson Decker launch rockets in his backyard. When she visits, she brings fascinating items such as bug catchers to trigger Decker's curiosity.

Although grandmas often initiate activities with the grandkids, grandfathers can also have a positive impact and build wonderful relationships with their grandchildren. Grandpas are just as important in the family dynamics! Here's what a six-year-old had to say about his grandpa, my husband, Holmes.

*He's my Poppa.
 He's awesome and he shares with us.
 When I visit, Poppa lets me sit in his
 big red comfy chair.
 He's real friendly and drives real good.
 I love Poppa!*

—Luke, age 6

You'll choose your own unique role as a grandparent. There are no rules saying you have to fill a certain role or be all of the above. Get “out of the box” of preconceived notions about what grandparents should be. Be yourself!

It's not the role you play, but the love you invest in your grandchildren that makes the difference. Avoid unreasonable expectations that come with trying to be everything to your grandkids, or comparing yourself to other grandparents. This is not a competition. Every grandparent has something unique and valuable to offer. Often it's the simple, homegrown activities that make the best memories.

The Blessings of Being a Grandparent

Investing in our grandkids brings tremendous blessings. They light up our lives. Maybe your teenage grandson drives you during the snowy season when the roads are icy, as Patty's grandson does. Perhaps you get calls from a granddaughter that brighten your day, or a serenade from a toddler grandson who sings *This Little Light of Mine* via webcam.

Your experience might be like that of Shirley Utz who, during chemotherapy, received encouraging e-mails like this one from her 10-year-old grandson, Hunter.

If you got this in the morning, it's Happy Hunter! Can't wait to come to TEXAS and see you! I didn't know hugging makes your hormones healthier but soon I'm going to give you a big hug. They put the port in—cool! I can't believe you are so calm about this! You have a fun, special, wonderful, glamorous day!

Love, Hunter

Our grandchildren's love for us enriches our lives immeasurably. As Barbara, an Oklahoma grandma, expresses, "It's been a wonderful journey. I wouldn't give the world for the joy I've had being a grandma, and being invited to be involved in my grandchildren's lives now that they are teens and grown-ups. You just get one shot at it, so take the time when it comes. They grow up so fast!"

Loving Our Step-Grandchildren

In our nation, many marriages end in divorce. That means that many grandparents will have one or more step-grandchildren come into their lives. Getting to know and love your step-grandchildren can be one of the best things you'll ever do; it will certainly make a huge difference in their lives.

To step-grandchildren, you're just their grandparents. Susan shares:

I never thought of my grandmother as a "step." She was Grandma Pape, my dad's stepmother. I looked forward to spending a couple of weeks each summer with her and my Grandpa Pape all by myself. These were the fondest childhood memories I have. They lived in Indiana and I was six hours away in Ohio. I don't know at what age I realized she was not "blood" but a step-grandmother, but I never gave it much thought. It was all about her love for me and the love I saw between Grandma and Grandpa. She was my grandma and I was her granddaughter and I never looked at our relationship as anything but that. In fact, I actually thought having more grandparents than my friends had was pretty cool. She was a gift to me and I am forever thankful that she was an integral part of my life.

After the shock wore off when Frances Strickland's son and his girlfriend announced they were getting married in three weeks, the Stricklands realized they would soon become step-grandparents to two-year-old Caitlyn. Frances and her husband

believe that love is a commitment, not a feeling. They set their hearts on loving their daughter-in-law and her child whom they'd seen only a few times. On Caitlyn's third birthday, Frances wrote this letter.

Mimi met you for the first time in May before you turned two. Little did I know that in less than six months you would become my precious little granddaughter. My first thoughts of you were that you had beautiful brown eyes that sparkle and dance and that you were very smart. At two you could pronounce any word clearly and count to ten. Your mom came here to dress for the garden wedding in our backyard, and I attempted to get you down for a nap beforehand. I'll never forget that I told you I loved you and you responded with, "I love you." I was blessed that during the wedding you chose to sit on my lap. Caitlyn, you are such a sweetheart, and I'm so glad God placed you in our family. To know you is to love you, and I do—with all my heart.

My love, Mimi

Love, acceptance, and being included in special activities with other grandkids can go a long way toward helping step-grandchildren through the changes and losses they've experienced. They may be slow to warm up, especially if they are adolescents. Or they may be very close to their other grandparents. But research shows that step-grandparents who are patient and accepting can have meaningful, loving relationships with their step-grandchildren. This book suggests scores of ways for step-grandparents to connect and build good relationships with the precious ones who've come into their lives.

Believing in Your Grandkids

No matter what obstacles children face, they can become great adults if they have someone who believes in them and loves them no matter what. That someone is often a grandparent.

I love the story of Luciano Pavarotti, one of the world's greatest opera singers, and the effect his grandma's love and

encouragement had on his life. When he was a little boy, his grandmother scooped him up into her lap and said, “You’re going to be great . . . you’ll see.” Pavarotti’s mother wanted him to be a banker, but he took a different direction—teaching elementary school and singing occasionally. His father urged him to quit teaching and study music; at age 22, he did. He became an insurance salesman so he’d have time for voice lessons.

Although Pavarotti credited his father for steering him back to music, he credited his grandmother as being the real source of his inspiration. “No teacher ever told me I would become famous. Just my grandmother.”

What’s Ahead

For all of us, the grandparent-grandchild connection is a work in progress. In this book you’ll find terrific tips and insights to help you along the journey. You’ll read about creative ways to connect through letters and packages, through storytelling and sharing family history, through cooking, through photos and memory albums, and through webcams and technology.

You’ll gain helpful ideas on handling the sometimes puzzling issue of gift-giving and how to make memory albums that connect your grandchild to the rest of the family. One chapter focuses on how to share your interests and plug into things that fascinate your grandchild. Another deals with making the most of visits with grandkids, at your house or theirs. Plus, you’ll be inspired by just-for-fun activities to do with your grandsons and granddaughters.

One growing trend in families is “Cousin Camps” held in the summer at grandparents’ homes or at a cabin. After interviewing a number of energetic grandparents who host Cousin Camps, I’ll share the best tips on having a fun, stress-free time with all your grandkids together. And I’ll offer great advice for planning a Grand Sleepover with one or two grandkids.

I hope you’ll pick and choose, using the ideas that work for you and your lifestyle. Tweak these suggestions to make them

your own; let this book be a springboard. Working on this project, I've gathered more ideas than this grandma can use in a lifetime, so save some ideas for later! The good thing is, I won't ever run out of ways to connect!

You don't have to read the chapters in order. If you have interest in a particular topic, go to that chapter. For example, if you're tech-challenged and want some ideas on how to connect with your techy grandkids through the Internet, go to Chapter 9. If you want to share family history through storytelling, see Chapter 13. If you want to have Grand Sleepovers, check out Chapter 4.

You'll find some activities that require financial resources; others cost almost nothing but the investment of your heart and time. If you like "easy," you'll find lots of ideas that require little or no planning. If you're up for more challenging activities, you'll find those as well. The pages ahead are packed with years' worth of creative ways to keep in touch, express your love, and make memories with your grandkids, whether they're down the street or a continent away.

Are you ready for a great adventure? You can build a wonderful connection with your grandchildren, and this book will show you how.

Our daughter in North Carolina used to say

we only visited her to see our grandsons and she took second place. To some degree, she was right! We thoroughly enjoyed raising our own children, but grandchildren awaken a different kind of love that's hard to explain. My three grandsons—Bryan, Andrew, and Eric—are my treasures and the light of my life.

—Anne Basile



About the Author

Cheri Fuller is a popular speaker and best-selling author of 40 books with combined sales of over one million, including *The One Year Women's Friendship Devotional*, *A Busy Woman's Guide to Prayer*, *The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible*, her award-winning book, *The Mom You're Meant to Be*, and others. A wife, mother, and grandmother to six lively grandchildren, Cheri's greatest joy has been building families and helping parents unlock their kids' learning and spiritual potential as we leave a great legacy of faith to the next generation. Now she has embarked on a mission to inspire grandparents all across the country to connect heart to heart with their grandkids.

Cheri, a former Oklahoma Mother of the Year, speaks to women at many retreats and conferences. She's written magazine articles and Internet columns that provide hope and encouragement to people throughout the U.S. and other countries. She was an education writer for *Family Circle* magazine, is a contributing writer for *Today's Christian Woman* and *ParentLife*, and a regular contributor to *Focus on the Family* and other publications. Her Web site, www.cherifuller.com, includes the column "Mothering By Heart," Bible studies and book guides, plus her eNewsletter, which goes to hundreds of women throughout the world.

Cheri and her husband, Holmes, live in Oklahoma. They have three grown and married children and six grandchildren who bring great joy to their lives.



Special Notes about My Grandkids

Special Notes about My Grandkids

Special Notes about My Grandkids