



## **A Personal Note from Single Steps Strategies Founder Mary Grace Musuneggi**

### **Life Lessons Learned While Wallpapering**

Anyone who knows me can attest to the fact that I am the typical “A” personality. I need everything to be done yesterday. And today is a day too late. To add fuel to this fire I am also a perfectionist. So I want it now, but I want it perfect. I am not good at waiting. I can’t even play games, like golf or bowling, as I am not very good at having to wait my turn.

But I am also a financial consultant; which means that I do understand and believe in deferred gratification. In my “split” personality, this is my Dr. Jekyll to my Mr. Hyde. This is a good thing. This logical part of my personality keeps me from jumping into the deep end of the pool.

So it is no surprise that many years ago when I moved into my first home, with the metallic orange, black and silver wallpapered bathroom, that the “A” personality and the perfectionist in me said “get rid of that wallpaper, and get rid of it now”; while the financial consultant said, “but don’t spend too much money doing it”.

After receiving quotes from a few re-modelers, my sensible side initially determined that the cost, at that time, was out of my budget. But as to not be deterred from my appointed mission, I thought that I could appease the “A” personality, the perfectionist and the financial consultant, by just doing it myself. After all, how hard could it be? I was an intelligent, well-educated person. I should be able to do anything.

I guess it is a good thing that I didn’t use this same kind of logic when I needed to have my gall bladder removed or when I went for a root canal. And as it turned out, hanging the wallpaper was just as painful.

After three days of stripping, measuring, cutting and hanging, the bathroom had gone from ugly to frightening. It became blatantly apparent that I had no talent for this kind of work. Everything that I could have done wrong, I managed to do. So in the end I called a professional, who now charged me twice as much to undo the damage I had done.

This experience taught me some valuable life lessons:

- the cheapest way is not always the best way
- being intelligent means being smart enough to know what you don’t know
- talent, expertise, knowledge and experience are invaluable tools that are worth paying for

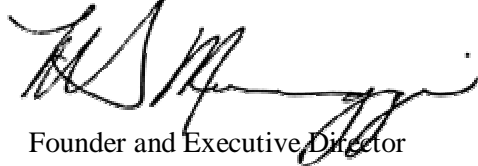
I have carried these lessons on to other things in my life; and I encourage my clients to do the same. Get professional advice on important matters. Bring in an expert when needed. Build a personal “yellow pages” of knowledgeable, talented people who you can trust and call upon when necessary.

I never again tried to hang wallpaper. And I don't do root canals or perform surgery. I leave these things to the professionals. And I like it that way. And so do my decorator, my dentist and my surgeon.

For more life lessons, come join *Single Steps Strategies* as part of your life's journey. Our professional Resource Providers are here to help you with your life challenges and changes one step at a time.

Here's hoping to see you along the way

Mary Grace Musuneggi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Grace Musuneggi', written in a cursive style.

Founder and Executive Director

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