
Grief Support

RSVP is appreciated, but not mandatory. RSVP to the WPS office (616) 538-0101 or director@wpsgr.org

““What Do I Do With Unhelpful Family And Friends?””

Evening Zoom Support Group
Next Meeting
Tuesday, August 6
7:00 – 8:15 pm

To login, the meeting ID is 861 3697 3690 and the Passcode is 083243. If you have any questions, you can email them at szsrdv@gmail.com or phone Susan at 616-780-1082 and/or Bob 616-780-5433.

In many ways, grieving is a solo journey, in that the widowed person has to deal with a unique multitude of secondary losses he/she is experiencing differently than others. However, we live in a world with many people surrounding us. Hopefully, many families and friends will probably try to support you on your grief journey. One of the many challenges is that people who know you most likely also had a relationship with your spouse. They are also grieving, although for uniquely different things based on their relationship with your husband or wife. And some of them may even say things or give advice that is hurtful or basically unhelpful by minimizing your grief. We will discuss within the group ways to be honest, yet kind and appreciative for attempts by others to be helpful.

Please join us for an informative and hopefully beneficial meeting for you as a grieving person and share some of the helpful as well as hurtful comments you have received and approaches you've used to express your thoughts and feelings. We hope to see you online

The WPS Online Educational Grief Support Group will be facilitated by Dr. Susan Zonnebelt-Smeenge, Psychologist, and Dr. Bob DeVries, Pastor and Seminary Prof (emeritus) authors of *Getting to the Other Side of Grief: Overcoming the Loss of a Spouse (2nd. Ed.) 2019*.

“Hope Through Crisis”

Daytime Support Group
Monday, August 12 @ 1:00 p.m.

Location: Storybrook (formerly Lincoln Square) Community Room, 3121 Lake Michigan Dr., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504. Please use the entrance door off of Lk. Michigan Dr., Lots of parking available.

Facilitators: David Morgenstern & Maureen Bawden

“Dealing with Children on Your Grief Journey”

Evening Support Group
Friday August 9th 6:30 to 7:30 pm

Location: Del-Mar Farm Recreation Association Clubhouse
5751 Del-Mar View Dr. SW, Grandville, MI 49418

“Dealing with children, whether dependent or adult, on your grief journey”.

Facilitators: Beverly and Bob Vander Heide

“The Layers of Grief”

Daytime Support Group
Wednesday, August 21st at 1:00 pm

Location: We will be meeting at Oriole Park, 1380 42nd Ave SW, Wyoming, MI. We meet under the big tree by the basketball court. Bring your own chair. In case of inclement weather, we will meet at the WPS Office, 4211 Clyde Park Sw., Wyoming, MI 49509

Facilitator: Peggy Hayes

“Who Am I Now?”

Evening Support Group
Tuesday August 27th at 7:00 pm

Location: Mayflower Church, 2345 Robinson Rd SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506
Who am I now? Widowed or Single? Increasing my self-esteem.

Facilitators: Kim Slupe & Michelle Cole

GROWTH THROUGH LOSS SEMINAR REGISTRATION

“We invite you to come and join us to learn about the framework for the Grief Journey which consists of 5 goals to which you can add your own unique circumstances. This will be a definite help as you deal with the death of your spouse in order to be able to complete your journey through grief and move forward in a healthy way!

Dr. Susan Zonnebelt-Smeenge, psychologist, and Dr. Robert DeVries, pastor, will present this seminar that aims to clarify the questions and concerns you may have. Seminar to include box lunch with small group discussions. Please consider joining us.

Looking forward to meeting you!

Susan and Bob

Location: Grandville Public Library, 4055 Maple St., S.W., Grandville, MI 49418

Date: Saturday, September 7, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

RSVP: Director@wpsgr.org, Suggested Donation of \$30.00

GROWTH THROUGH LOSS SEMINAR REGISTRATION

Please return this portion with your donation to:

WPS, 4211 Clyde Park SW, Unit C, Wyoming, MI 49509

or phone (616) 538-0101

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

MONTH/YEAR WIDOWED: _____

AND AGES OF CHILDREN UNDER 21: _____

RSVP to Director@wpsgr.org or
phone (616) 538-0101

Suggested Donation of \$30.00

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Checks Payable to:
WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE
4211 CLYDE PARK SW – UNIT C
WYOMING, MI 49509

Or Complete Credit Card Information:

Card#: _____

Exp (Mo/Yr.) _____ CVV: _____

Visa

Mastercard

Signature: _____

Social Support: Newly Widowed THIS MONTH'S SOCIAL SUPPORT LUNCH/DINNER

Wednesday, August 14 @ 1:00 pm

Location: McAllister's Deli
2380 Health Dr., S.W.
Wyoming, MI 49519

Sunday, August 25 @ 4:30 pm

Location: Longhorn Steakhouse
5088 28th St., S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49512

Join this friendly group for an afternoon of fun and friendship. WPS encourages you to take this opportunity to make new friends who are going through the same loss you are, to help you through the grief process. This event is for those who have been widowed in the last two years or are actively attending support group meetings. The two-year mark is only a suggestion. Our goal is that by attending social events, an important component to your grief journey, you begin to gain confidence in life as a single person and you expand your horizons.

Monthly social activities are coordinated by WPS volunteers who have been widowed. Social activities sponsored by WPS are intended for those who are current support group participants and still actively grieving. You are invited to attend any and all activities listed in this newsletter. Updates are found on our homepage at www.wpsgr.org or facebook page at Widowed Persons Grand Rapids.

HAVE YOU THANKED A VOLUNTEER?!?

THE most important gift is the **GIFT OF TIME**. The WPS volunteers give the gift of time unconditionally! Relationships are priceless, please treat each person with **respect, be nice** and say **thank you** for all you do for us as a **Volunteer! Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give.**

Marge's Donuts



Come join us for coffee, a donut and conversation. All are invited to share in conversation in the private back room at Marge's on the last Friday of each month at 10:00 am located at 1751 - 28th St. SW, Wyoming. This month it will be August 30. For questions contact Michele Cole at 616-901-2839. Hope to see you there!!

**WPS Picnic Potluck at Whistlestop Park Pavilion,
Sponsored by MKD Funeral Homes
2120 76th St., Byron Center
Sunday, August 4 at 1:00 p.m. (Rain or Shine)**



All are welcomed to attend, table Service, Lemonade and Ice Tea are provided. Please bring a dish to pass (with something in it). Karon will again be bringing her delicious pulled pork and buns. (Alcohol is not allowed in the park). RSVP to Karon at 616-885-4830, and be sure to leave your name.

Picnic is in place of eating out the last Sunday in July.

FALL AUCTION

**Thursday, November 7, 2024
5:30 – 8:30 pm
Aquinas College, Donnelly Ctr
Grand Rapids, MI**

www.wpsgr.org



[Purchase Tickets](#)

RUSO
bringing our heritage to you

Thank you to Russo's Ristorante and to all those who attended the Dinner Fundraiser which raised \$120.00. Superb host, food and friends, was a great evening for a WPS Dinner. **Grazie!**

The WPS office appreciates the support these funds provide; the funds help to pay a portion of our office expenses. My niece calls it People helping People. Thank you for attending and sharing a meal, your kindness does not go unnoticed.

Social Opportunities

WPS encourages the maintenance of friendships gained through participation in our services. If you find Widowed Persons Services helpful, these opportunities may be of interest to you as you adapt into your life as a single person. Please call or email contacts listed below to RSVP and for further information and say Thank You. As a non-profit organization, your \$25.00 contribution to the newsletter renewal enables WPS to inform all current and past participants of support and social opportunities and helps provide the newsletter to those who have become recently widowed



Monday, August 5, 12, 19 & 26th
Time: 9:30 a.m.

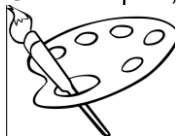
Location:
Del-Mar Farms Clubhouse
5761 Del Mar Dr.,
Grandville

It's a fun hour of pickle ball. You don't have to be a pro, just come and enjoy the fun. RSVP only if you can attend. Contact Mary or Bobby Brewer at 616-283-3132.

Third Thursdays

Thursday, August 15
from 5 to 8pm

Location: Storybrook
(Formerly Lincoln
Square) Meeting Rm
3121 Lk. Michigan Dr NW
Grand Rapids, MI



Watercolor Artist Susan Vogelar will provide all materials needed for an introduction to watercolor painting. Bring a dish to pass.



Tuesday August 6, 13, 20 & 27

Location: Kauffman Golf Course, 4807 Clyde Park, SW, Wyoming, MI 49509

Tee Off Time: 9:30 a.m.

Join the camaraderie where the focus is on fun, not just the score.

For questions contact Maureen 616-550-3515, Jim 616-915-4674 or Dave 616-885-4238



Thursday, August 8th, 22nd
Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: Double Dib Depot Ice Cream
3284 Remembrance Rd.
Grand Rapids, 49534

Mini golf is a great reminder that sometimes event the smallest things can bring the greatest joy and every hole is an adventure.



Sunday, August 11
Time: 2:00 p.m.

West Michigan Whitecaps
Beloit Sky Carp
LMCU Ballpark
4500 W River Dr NE
Comstock Park, MI 49321

30 tickets are available for our group in Section 114. \$16.00/person until gone. Call Maureen at 616-550-3515 to reserve your ticket.



WPS is seeking volunteers who are interested and skilled at scheduling and coordinating monthly social gatherings, newsletter development and mailing, data entry and general office work/help as needed. For inquires/interview and questions contact Executive Director @ 616-538-0101 or email Liz.kempker@wpsgr.org



**Licari's
Sicilian
Pizza
Kitchen**

Monday, August 19
Time: 11am to 10pm
Dinner: 5:30 pm
Location:
3627 Baldwin St.
Hudsonville, MI 49426

Licari's offers pizze, pasta, seafood, salads and more. Please provide hard copy of the coupon to server when cashing out. Check in on Facebook at Licari's and post #licarismoneymakingmondays



Friday, August 23rd
Location: Gilda's Club

The "Kindness Krew" will be volunteering at Gilda's Club, 1806 Bridge St., Grand Rapids, MI 49504 doing a variety of tasks. Please call/text Maureen at 616-550-3515 or Michele at 616-901-2839.

If you have a non-profit that needs help, feel free to contact "The Kindness Krew".

2023 Board Members

Aggie Kempker-Cloyd – President, Mike Larabel – Vice President, Diane Lobbestael – Secretary (Widow), Julie Myers – Treasurer, Tom Braciak (Widower), Chris Wilks, Molly Black, Susanne Miller-Schachinger, Rev. Kenneth W. Hoskins, April Hulst, David Morgenstern (Widower), David Campbell (Widower) and Bonnie Kruthof (Widow).



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Wyoming, MI 49509
Return Service Requested

Monthly Newsletter
August, 2024
Issue 180

Our Mission

Widowed Persons Service (WPS) is organized exclusively for the purpose of offering supportive services to those individuals in the greater Grand Rapids area who have suffered the loss of a spouse through death.

Our Vision

To provide actively grieving widowed men and women a safe and healthy environment in which to process their grief, resulting in an enriching life as a single person.

Our Process

WPS offers each grieving individual peer-to-peer support based on the belief that a widowed person is best helped along his/her grief journey with the help of other widowed people who have had similar experiences.

WPS Updates

Stay updated with Widowed Persons Service online:

www.wpsgr.org



Widowed Persons Grand Rapids



**Widowed
Persons
Service**

Office Hours

GROWING THROUGH GRIEF
Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Please call
for an appt.

Contact Us

4211 Clyde Park, SW (Unit C)
Wyoming, MI 49509
wpsgr.org | director@wpsgr.org
(616) 538-0101