
Grief Support

**Seven Month Series:
“The Things You Need to
Understand and Implement in
Order to Navigate Your
Journey Through Grief”.**

**4th Meeting of the Series:
“The Goals of Grief”**

Evening Zoom Support Group
Tuesday, January 7th from
7:00 – 8:15 pm

The meeting ID is 861 3697 3690
and the Passcode is 083243.

WPS invites you to participate in its monthly ONLINE educational grief support group. Please join us for the 4th meeting in our 7-month series on “Navigating Your Journey Through Grief. We are in the midst of discussing the goals of grief. Those goals are necessary in order to cross the finish line of your challenging grief journey. It doesn’t matter if you have not attended any of these online meetings before. You are welcome to join us as we look at remembering and summarizing your marriage to your husband or wife and eventually moving him or her to the past.

Come and discuss with us how to go about remembering and summarizing so you can honor and pay tribute to your deceased spouse and learning what it means to say goodbye to him or her for the present and future.

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) They are co-authors of Getting to the Other Side of Grief: Overcoming the Loss of Your Spouse; The Empty Chair; Handling Grief on Holidays and Special Occasions; Traveling Through Grief: Learning to Live Again After the Death of a Loved One; and From We to Me; If you have any questions, you can email at szsrdiv@gmail.com or phone Susan at 616-780-1082 and/or Bob 616-780-5433.

**“Letting Go” To Make Room for
New Beginnings**

Tuesday, January 7th at 1:00 pm

Location: The Grandville Library – Babcock Room,
(Enter off of Washington Ave.)

4055 Maple St., SW, Grandville, MI 49418

Facilitator: Mike and Sue Barnes

**Realistic Resolutions for the
New Year**

Monday, January 13th at 1:00 pm

Location: StoryPoint (formerly Lincoln Square) Community Room, 3121
Lake Michigan Dr., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

Please use the entrance door off of Lk. Michigan Dr., parking available.

Facilitators: David Morgenstern & Maureen Bawden

**“Starting Over – But Wanting
the Old Normal Back”**

Tuesday, January 28th at 7:00 pm

Location: Mayflower Church, 2345 Robinson Rd SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Facilitators: Kim Slupe & Michelle Cole

Remember to check in on loved ones, as others appear to enjoy the holidays, those grieving often feel alone and forgotten. Let someone know you are thinking of them, it makes a difference.

Social Support: Newly Widowed

This Month’s Newly Widowed Social Support Lunch/Dinner

Thursday, January 9th @ 1:00 pm

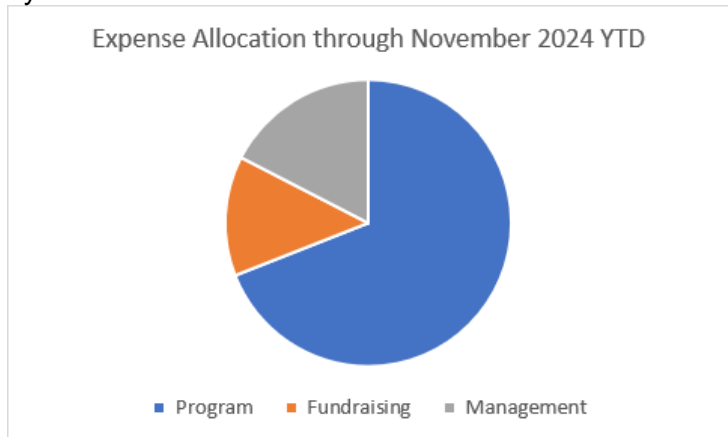
Location: New Beginnings
4735 Lk. Mich. Dr., Standale, MI 49534

Sunday, January 26 @ 4:30 pm

Location: Russ’ Restaurant
4440 Chicago Dr., Grandville, MI 49418

Join this friendly group of newly widowed for a meal with fun and friendship. WPS encourages you to take this opportunity to make new friends who are going through the same loss as you are, to help you through the grief process. This event is for those who are newly widowed and by attending a social event, an important component to your grief journey, you begin to gain confidence in life as a single person as you expand your horizons.

Below is the Expense Allocation Graph through November, 2024 as prepared by Our WPS Board of Director's Treasurer. The WPS Board of Directors would like to share where the money raised by the Board of Directors is allocated.



Program expenses are any costs related to running the various programs and services offered per its mission.

Fundraising costs are supporting expenses associated with fundraising.

Management and general costs are supporting expenses associated with funding the day-to-day operations.

The Graph illustrates Programs at 70%, Fundraising at 15% and Management at 15%.

Program expenses make up the majority of overall costs for Widowed Persons Service Grand Rapids.



FALL AUCTION FUNDRAISER, NOVEMBER 7, 2024

Thank you to Ruth's Cris Steak House— My apology for the typo error in last month's newsletter.

Social Opportunities for Alumni, Supporters and Newly Widowed (when ready)

Monthly social opportunities are coordinated and sponsored by WPS volunteers and alumni who have been widowed. 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 Service Grand Rapids

Marge's Donut Den



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 a.m. located at 1751 - 28th St. SW, Wyoming. This month it will be January 31st. For questions contact Michele Cole at 616-901-2839. Hope to see you there!!

POPS Concert Fundraiser

Take Me Out to The Ballgame....



For Friday, March 14, 2025 at 7:30 pm and/or Saturday, March 15, 2025 at 7:30 pm.

Put on your favorite team's logo and celebrate the best of the sports anthems. Bob Bernhardt will be conducting this WPS Fundraiser and he brings another one of his favorite topics.

To purchase tickets: Call 616-454-9451 ext. 4 and with promotional code **WPS**



Thank you, Texas Roadhouse, and Thank you to all who attended our WPS Dinner Fundraiser. Texas Roadhouse donated 10% which totaled \$72.00 and our waitresses added \$30.00 to make \$102.00. raised

WPS encourages the maintenance of friendships gained through participation in 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. For further information or questions, feel free to contact the WPS Office or contact the volunteer who is hosting. As a non-profit organization, your yearly \$25.00 contribution to the newsletter renewal enables WPS to inform all current and past participants of support/social opportunities and helps provide the newsletter to those who have become recently widowed.

**Can, Can you Dance? APRIL IN PARIS
FUNDRAISER**
April 12, 2025 Sunnybrook Country Club
Tickets: \$45.00 per person

*Save
the
Date*

WPS Golf Outing
June 17, 2025
Orchard Hills Golf Course
Shelbyville



Pickleball!

Wednesday, January 8,
15, 22, and 29
Time: 1 to 3 p.m.
Cost: \$5.00

Location:
MSA Woodland
2100 28th St., SE,
Grand Rapids, 49508

Pickleball, don't forget to
sign in! RSVP only if
you can attend. Contact
Mary or Bobby Brewer
at 616-283-3132.



Bowling!

Thursday, January 2, 9,
16, 23, and 30th
Check in: 9:30 a.m.
Bowling Starts 10:00 a.m.

Location: Clique Lanes
533 Stocking Ave NW
Grand Rapids, 49504

Bowling is a sport for
people who have talent to
spare. Greeter
forthcoming, please
contact the office at 616-
538-0101



Dinner Fundraiser!

Monday, January 6
Time: 5:00 to 7:00pm

Location: Brann's
Steakhouse & Grille
3475 Fairlanes Ave
Grandville, MI 49418

When dining, 15% of
the check will be
donated to WPS. Be
sure to include the
coupon. Be sure to
say hello and sign-in.

Kindness Krew



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

Friday, January 10
Time: 9 to 11 am

Kids Food Basket
1300 Plymouth NE
Grand Rapids, MI

Please Contact Michele
(616-901-2839 or
Maureen 616-550-3515
to confirm. KFB asks
you to register at link:
https://vhub.at/widowedp_ersonskempker



La Cena De Mis Bestias

Sunday, January 12
Time: 5:00pm meet up

Location: Beltline Bar
16 28th St SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49548

Everyone is invited for
Tacos, Famous Wet
Burritos, Enchiladas,
Fajitas, Guacamole and
so much more. Mike C.
will be our greeter, be
sure to say hello and
sign-in.

Third Thursday Chili Cookoff



Thursday, January 16
Time: 5:00 to 7:00 pm

Location:
StoryPoint West
3121 Lk Mich. Dr.
Grand Rapids, MI
49504

Bring your best tasting
chili for rave reviews.
Jim W. will be our
greeter, be sure to say
hello and sign-in.



Wednesday, January 22
Time: 4 to 7 pm or ?
Cost: \$5.00

Location:
House Rules
404 Ionia Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Check out the extensive
library and get ready for
a night of fun and
laughter. Tom B will be
our greeter, be sure to
say hello and sign-in.

Please Note:



The Postal Service
suggests that while on
vacation to put your
mail on hold for peace
of mind. A pile-up of
mail broadcasts to
thieves that you aren't
at home. Feel free to
contact our office at
616-538-0101, we can
temporarily not send
you the newsletter
while you are out of
town.

2025 Board Members

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



Non-Profit Organ.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 70
Grandville, MI

4211 Clyde Park, SW (Unit C)
Wyoming, MI 49509
Return Service Requested

Monthly Newsletter
January, 2025
Issue 185

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 partner through death.

Our Vision

To provide actively grieving widowed adults 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



Office Hours

Tuesday thru Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Please call for an appt. or feel free to stop in.

Contact Us

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