



Thank you to all of our supporters and donors. Through your generosity we are putting our mission into action. Your giving expands to others, and those ripples expand even more. It is a powerful way of touching people's lives; helping widowed adults move forward after the loss of a partner.

Grief Support Meetings

Seven Month Series:

“The Things You Need to Understand and Implement in Order to Navigate Your Journey Through Grief”.

**5th Meeting of the Series:
“Reconstructed Identity”**

Evening Zoom Support Group
Tuesday, February 4th 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 5th meeting in our 7-month series on “Navigating Your Journey Through Grief. In this monthly meeting, we will be focusing on discovering one’s own identity after being widowed – “the two shall become one” now one. When you’ve been a couple, and suddenly you have no partner and all that represents, you may feel like “half a person” or like you have no idea who you are now. What do you do about that except to grieve heartily for all you are missing with your spouse’s death? Come and join our helpful discussion on how to go about developing your newly reconstructed identity! We want to help you take more steps along on your own personal grief journey to the “other side of grief!”

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 szsrdv@gmail.com or phone Susan at 616-780-1082 and/or Bob 616-780-5433.

“Valentine’s Day: Losing the Love of Your Life”

Tuesday, February 4th 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

“How Do We Fill the Emptiness?”

Monday, February 10th 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

“I Feel So Lonely Without My Spouse”

Tuesday, February 25th at 7:00 pm

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

Facilitators: Kim Slupe & Michelle Cole

Social Support: Newly Widowed

This Month’s Newly Widowed Social Support Lunch/Dinner

Thursday, February 6th @ 1:00 pm

Location: Monelli’s Italian Grill

5675 Byron Center Ave SW, Wyoming, MI

Sunday, February 23 @ 4:30 pm

Location: The Bestside Grille

1645 Leonard NW, Grand Rapids, MI

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.

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 February 28th. For questions contact Michele Cole at 616-901-2839. Hope to see you there!!

POPS Concert Fundraiser

Take Me Out to The Ballgame....

GRAND RAPIDS
SYMPHONY

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

Got your Tickets? They are selling fast!!! 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 use promotional code **WPS**



Can, Can you Dance? APRIL IN PARIS FUNDRAISER

April 12, 2025 Sunnybrook Country Club

Tickets: \$45.00 per person Contact The WPS Office or Maureen for Tickets

"The Big Dog's" will be playing to an Hor d'oeuvres Buffet and Silent Auction. Try a shimmy shake of the hips, do the Twist, or put your own funky spin on the Hokey Pokey. No matter what dance you do, you will be celebrating good times! For Tickets, Sponsorship and Auction Opportunities, contact Maureen B. at 616-550-3515, Michele C. at 616-901-2839, Deb N. at 248765-2746 or Rich V. at 616-477-7473.

WPS Golf Outing, June 17, 2025
Orchard Hills Golf Course,
Shelbyville
Tickets \$100.00 per person



Fall Auction Fundraiser,
November 6, 2025
Aquinas College Donnelly Center
Tickets: \$55.00 per person



Clark Foundation Leading Ladies is a group of multi-generational women who care about philanthropy, education, community partnerships, and building a social network. Part of the Leading Ladies mission is to give back to deserving charities in our local communities and has gifted WPS \$1,000.00 as their 2024 recipient. **Thank you for your kind generosity**, the funds will go towards our mission to support our widowed participants.



Thank you to all those who volunteered at the Wine, Beer and Food Festival. WPS has received a check for \$702.00 which will be earmarked towards the 2025 "Can, Can You Dance", April in Paris Dance Fundraiser at Sunnybrook Country Club on April 12, 2025

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.



BIG BOB'S Dinner Fundraiser!

Monday, February 3
All Day with Coupon

Location:
Big Bob's Pizza
The "Cheers" of EGR
661 Croswell Ave SE
East Grand Rapids

Meet up at 4:30 pm,
Parking in front of
"Cheers". Dine
In/Takeout 15% of the
check will be donated
to WPS. Be sure to
say hello and sign-in.

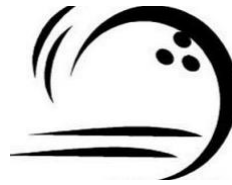


Pickleball!

Wednesday, February 5,
12, 19 and 26
Time: 1 to 3 p.m.
Cost: \$5.00

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

Pickleball is the best
way to spend my time.
Don't forget to sign in!
RSVP only if you can
attend. Contact Mary or
Bobby Brewer at 616-
283-3132.



Bowling!

Thursday, February 6,
13, 20 and 27

Check in: 9:30 a.m.
Bowling Starts 10:00 am

Location:
Park Center Lanes
2222 28th St SW
Wyoming, MI 49519

Well, Bowl me down!!
\$8.00 to bowl which
includes shoes. Mike C
will be your greeter. 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, February 21,
Delivery of our Card
Creations.

February has been
recognized as
American Heart Month
since 1964.

The First Friday in
February (2-7) is
always Wear Red Day
to raise awareness of
heart disease.
Please Contact
Michele (616-901-2839
or Maureen 616-550-
3515 to confirm.



Wheel of Fortune

Wednesday, February 12
Time: 4 to 7 pm
Cost: \$5.00

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

Buy a Vowel or spin the
wheel. Mark K will be our
greeter. Be sure to say
hello and sign-in.



Pizza Ranch

Sunday, February 16
Time: 3:45pm meet up

Location: Pizza Ranch
3858 28th St SE
Kentwood, MI

Everyone is invited
Before 4pm senior cost
is \$13.35, after 4pm cost
is \$16.38. Be sure to say
hello and sign-in.

3rd Thursday's Card Creations.

Thursday, February 20
Time: 5:00 to 7:00 pm

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

Bring your favorite
quips. We will be
making cards for our
veterans for Valentines.
Jim W. will be our
greeter. Be sure to say
hello and sign-in.

Culinary Sunrise at Rainbow Grill

Tuesday, February 25
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location:
Rainbow Grill
4158 Chicago Dr SW
Grandville, MI 49418

Everyone is invited to
start your morning off
with Pancakes,
Cornflakes or
Cheesecake, just no
snowflakes. Be sure
to say hello and sign-
in.

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.



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February, 2025
Issue 186



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:6165380101)