



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”.

6th Meeting of the Series: “Reconstructed Identity”

Evening Zoom Support Group
Tuesday, March 4th from
7:00 – 8:15 pm

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

If you have any questions, you can
email at szsrdrv@gmail.com or
phone Susan at 616-780-1082
and/or Bob 616-780-5433.

WPS invites you to participate in its monthly ONLINE educational grief support group. Please join us in our 7-month series on “Navigating Your Journey Through Grief”. There is one last goal of 5 to discuss for our 6th meeting of the 7-week series. We will be discussing “Reinvesting in Life Once Again.” Please don’t stay away if you haven’t been to the previous meetings. There will be plenty of benefits for you in this meeting alone even if you have not attended our group other months. We will be discussing; “Now that I am beginning to know who I am solo without my husband or wife any longer, how do I decide what path to follow as I create what I want to do or feel compelled to do next? How do I identify what I’m on earth for and how do I possibly pick up the pieces and move forward?”

Come and join our discussion of reinvesting in life once again after dealing with the death of your partner. It seems strange to make those decisions solo without knowing how to go about it. We will be sharing with each other some suggestions about ways to reinvest in life once again, hopefully feeling stronger and wiser for the wear!

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.

“Looking at the Factors that Make Your Grief Journey Uniquely Yours”

Tuesday, March 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

“I Feel So Lonely Without My Spouse”

Monday, March 10th at 1:00 pm

Location: StoryPoint West

3121 Lake Michigan Dr., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

Room change to Activity Room in Main Entrance due to renovations.

Facilitators: David Morgenstern & Maureen Bawden

“You Know You Are Done Grieving When.....”

Tuesday, March 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, March 13th @ 1:00 pm

Location: Cabana Tres Amigos
1409 60th St SE, Kentwood, MI

Sunday, March 23 @ 4:30 pm

Location: Beer City Bread Co.
2650 E. Beltline Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI

Join this friendly group of newly widowed men and women 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 essential 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

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

MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Susanne Miller-Schachinger

Susanne was born and raised in Austria and worked for twelve years in the banking and manufacturing industry in Europe. Susanne held marketing positions for several Silicon Valley companies over six years before moving to Grand Rapids in 2002. She joined the Van Andel Institute Graduate School in 2017 in the position of Executive Assistant to the Dean and Executive Academic Officer.

Susanne was recruited as a WPS board member by Agnes Kempker-Cloyd in March 2021 and joined enthusiastically after finding her heart deeply associated with the mission of this fine non-profit organization. Susanne is married to Glenn. Their son and grandson share the home which makes for quite a lively household. She loves nature and the outdoors, goes on long-distance hikes and bike rides and even runs in blizzards (that's the Alpine girl in her). Susanne's favorite place to travel is, of course, Austria! She lives for entertaining with fresh home-cooked food (accompanied by a good glass of wine). Cheers!

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 Dogs" will be playing to an hors d'oeuvres Buffet and Silent Auction. Try a "shimmy shake", 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 248-765-2746 or Rich V. at 616-477-7473.

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

West Michigan Whitecaps Game
July 13, Sunday at 2:00 pm
Ticket to include Soda and Hotdog



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

WPS Summer Picnic, Saturday, August 2, 2025
8th Ave. Park, Georgetown Charter Township



Thank you to all those who attended the Dinner Fundraiser at Big Bob's Pizza. We had such a fun time at "Cheers" and staff enjoyed all of us as well. We've received a check for \$250.00. Thank you Big Bob's Pizza!!!

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 been recently widowed.



**Qdoba
Dinner Fundraiser!**

Sunday, March 2
Time: 4pm to 8pm
Meet up: 5:00 pm



Location:
3871 Rivertown Pkwy
Grandville, MI 49418

Bring your grass skirt, we will have Hawaiian leis, and get ready to celebrate Hawaiian style! Qdoba Mexican Eats has 25% of the check donated to WPS. Dave H. will be our greeter, be sure to say hello and sign-in.



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

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

Weather permitting, let's try it AGAIN. Mark K will be our greeter. Be sure to say hello and sign-in.



Pickleball!

Wednesday, March 5,
12, 19 & 26th
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.

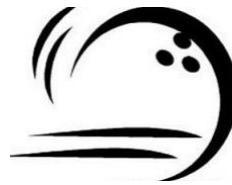


**Licari's Sicilian Pizza
Let's Eat Together**

Sunday, March 16
Time: 5:00pm meet up

Location: Licari's
3627 Baldwin St
Hudsonville, MI 49426

Authentic Sicilian Food is as delicious as the atmosphere. Mike B. will be our greeter, be sure to say hello and sign-in.



Bowling!

Thursday, March 6, 13,
20 and 27th

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 over!! \$8.00 to bowl which includes shoes. Mike C will be your greeter. Be sure to say hello and sign-in.



Thursday, March 20th
Time: 5:30 to 7:00 pm

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

Lindsey Christian with Success Financial will be presenting and will have questions and answers afterward. Bring your own pizza or a small dessert to share. Jim W. will be our greeter. Be sure to say hello and sign-in.

**Kindness
Krew**



Friday, March 21
Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location:
H.O.P.E. Gardens
Greenhouse
10656 Wilson Ave SW
Byron Center, MI 49315

We will be transplanting pepper plants for their spring sale inside the greenhouse.

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

Please Contact Michele (616-901-2839 or Maureen 616-550-3515 to confirm.



**Culinary Sunrise
at Peppermill Café**

Wednesday, March 26
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location:
Peppermill Café
4511 Lk Mich Dr NW
Walker, MI 49534

Everyone is invited to start your morning off with people who make you feel good about being you. Be sure to say hello and sign-in.

2025 Board Members

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

Happy March!

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Wyoming, MI 49509
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March, 2025
Issue 187



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 Thursday: 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)