

WPS Organizational Statements

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.

Vision: Our vision is 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: Widowed Persons Service 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.

We carry out our mission, vision and process through the following services:

Primary Services:

- Monthly support group meetings, facilitated by WPS staff and/or volunteers who also have been widowed, designed for those who are actively grieving
- Monthly social events, coordinated by WPS volunteers who also have been widowed, designed for those who are actively grieving
- “Growth Through Loss Seminar”, offered annually and designed especially for those who have been widowed two years or less

Secondary Services:

- One-to-one counsel by widowed WPS staff and volunteers
- A resource library
- Educational seminars designed around the needs of widowed people
- Alumni events

WPS Program Policies

1. WPS is not a membership-based organization and no dues are collected. Therefore, those who benefit from primary services are deemed “participants”. Those who have moved through the primary service portion of programming are deemed “alumni”. Participants and alumni are not qualified to vote on organizational practices or be involved in governance and oversight.
2. WPS primary services will include support groups, social activities and the Growth Through Loss Seminar. These services are intended for individuals who are actively grieving. WPS holds to the view that once a person is dating or remarried, they are through the grief journey and therefore no longer need the support or social activity services of WPS.
3. Primary services are intended for people widowed up to five years. Support groups address topics of interest for those widowed two years or less, designed for those who are actively grieving. Social activities are designed to provide community for those actively grieving who are currently attending support groups or who have transitioned away from support groups recently.
 - WPS staff and volunteers are charged with ensuring the life situation of those in attendance at support groups and social activities fits with the aforementioned parameters. All participants who choose to attend will be asked to share their name and amount of time widowed. If it is determined a participant should not be attending additional meetings, this will be addressed in an appropriate manner.
4. WPS meetings and social events are intended to be safe and welcoming for all who attend.
 - All personal information (name, address, phone, email) gathered will be kept private by the facilitator or coordinator and will not be shared with anyone outside of WPS staff for the purposes of the organization.
 - WPS staff and volunteers are charged with ensuring the comfort level of all who attend, and therefore are empowered to address concerns either as part of the specific gathering or following it. If it is determined an issue cannot be resolved, the individual(s) whose behavior is in question will be asked to refrain from attending future meetings and events, or until the issue at hand can be resolved.
5. WPS secondary services will include one-to-one counsel, a resource library, educational seminars and alumni events.
 - People widowed any length of time are eligible to attend educational seminars held regularly.
 - WPS will hold two annual alumni events. The nature of alumni events will be determined by the committee named to coordinate the event and will ideally be a fundraiser to support the efforts of Widowed Persons Service.

The Widowed Persons Service Organizational Statements and Program Policies have been approved by the Widowed Persons Service Board of Directors.

The Widowed Persons Service Organizational Statements and Program Policies have been found legally compliant by legal counsel.