
Educational Support

For all events please RSVP to the WPS office (616) 538-0101 or director@wpsgr.org

“Redesigning and Constructing a More Confident YOU. As an Emerging Single Person”

Evening Zoom Support Group
Next Meeting
Tuesday, February 7th, 2023
7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

One of the most dramatic life changing occurrences in one’s life is the death of a spouse. Now that you are technically “solo,” you are the decision-maker of everything. The “buck” stops with you, so to speak. That can be empowering but also scary. How can you handle all of your life’s choices with more confidence while being single? How can you get to know yourself as a single person and no longer a couple? Join our interesting discussion online and learn about confidence building, increasing your self-esteem, congruence, and assertiveness as tools to help you like yourself and look forward to a newly re-constructed future!! Hope to see you at the meeting.

Meeting ID: 869 0778 2819 Passcode: 450003

Email: widowedpersonsgr@gmail.com or call the office at (616)538-0101 with any questions.

Facilitators: Bob DeVries (pastor) and Susan Zonnebelt-Smeenge (psychologist)

Location: The convenience of your own home.

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

Evening Support Group
Friday, February 10th, 2023
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Facilitators: Beverly and Bob Vander Heide

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

“Sharing Memories”

Daytime Support Group
Wednesday, February 15th, 2023 at
1:00 pm

Come join other newly widowed people as we share our stories and support each other. We will meet at the WPS Office.

Hosts: Peggy Hayes

Location: WPS Office 4211 Clyde Park, SW (Unit C) Wyoming, MI

“I Feel So Lonely Without My Spouse”

Evening Support Group
Tuesday, February 28th, 2023 at
7:00 pm

Facilitators: Kim Slupe & Michelle Cole

Location: Knapp Reformed Church
4025 Knapp St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49525

February Social Support: Newly Widowed

THIS MONTH'S SOCIAL SUPPORT LUNCH/DINNER

Wednesday February 8th @

1:00 PM

Location: Logan's
4425 Canal SW
Grandville

Sunday February 26th @ 4:30 PM

Location: Pietro's
2780 Birchcrest Dr. SE
Grand Rapids

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. 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 beyond WPS. WPS holds to the view that once a person is dating or remarried, they are through their grief journey and therefore no longer need the support of social activity (primary) services of WPS.

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 years is only a suggested time frame, please feel free to attend any or all of the events listed.**

February Social Support: Independent Social Opportunities

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

Marge's Donuts

Come join us for coffee, a donut and conversation. We will meet in the back room at Marge's on the last Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. This month it will be February 24th. Hope to see you there!!

Potluck and Game Night!!

Wednesday February 22nd at
5:30 p.m.

Location: St Casimir/6th
Street Hall
649 6th Street NW Grand
Rapids

This will be a potluck so
please bring a dish to pass!!

Pickleball!!

Tuesday, February 7, 14, 21
& 28 @ 1:00 p.m. (Please
note time change)

Location: MSA Woodland
2100 – 28th St. Grand Rapids

Join us each Tuesday
afternoon @ 1:00 p.m. for
some friendly competition.
Cost is \$5.00 per person per
session. Bring your own
paddle.

Bowling at the Clique!!

Thursday February 2, 9, 16 &
23rd.

Location: Clique Bowling Lanes
533 Stocking Ave. Grand Rapids

Please arrive no later than 9:30
a.m. for check in. Bowling
starts at 10:00 a.m.
Join us each Thursday morning
for three games of bowling, fun
and friendship. Cost is \$7.00 to
bowl and \$2.00 for shoes.
Lunch afterwards for those who
wish to stay. Optional \$1.00
donation for drawing.

Upcoming Highlights

Welcome to the New Director of WPS!!

Hello from Julie Whitney, the new Executive Director at WPS!

I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of this wonderful organization and am excited to support its many participants, volunteers and Board Members.

A few things about me... I live in Ada with my husband, Adam, and our 3 children Nathan (12), Brianna (10) and Jacob (6). All three kiddos are in Spanish immersion at Forest Hills. We also have several furry family members, with 2 dogs, 2 cats, and 1 fish. As a family, we enjoy many outdoors activities including fishing, hiking, boating, shopping and vacationing in all places warm and sunny.

My professional experience lies in corporate finance, namely at a company called Grainger based out of Chicago. I worked in finance for about 15 years prior to becoming a stay at home parent after my 3rd child was born. I've also served on many nonprofit boards and financial committees, including The Children's Workshop as Treasurer and The YWCA of West Michigan Finance Committee. Most recently, I regularly volunteer at Forest Hills Public Schools. While I am very comfortable with numbers from my finance days, my most valuable professional accomplishments are the relationships formed over the years with my many business partners. I am passionate about helping people and figuring out solutions to their needs, whether it's financial or otherwise. I look forward to putting my skills to use through fundraising activities to grow and sustain Widowed Persons Service.

This fall, I hope to continue my journey to serve our community as I pursue a Masters in Social Work in addition to my role as Executive Director. I am truly dedicated to the WPS community and look forward to helping out in any way I can.

Happy New Year to you all and I look forward to getting to know you very soon!

Warm Regards,

Julie

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00am-3:00pm, Wednesdays 11:00am-4:00pm

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wpsgr.org | director@wpsgr.org | (616) 538-0101



4211 Clyde Park, SW (Unit C)
Wyoming, MI 49509
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February 2023
Issue 162

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.

AmazonSmile

You can support WPS by making purchases on Amazon. Amazon donates 0.5% of the prices of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. To sign up, login at smile.amazon.com and select **Widowed Persons Service- Wyoming**, found under the search box at the top of the page.

WPS Updates

Stay updated with Widowed Persons Service online:

-  www.wpsgr.com
-  Widowed Persons GR



GROWING THROUGH GRIEF

Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Contact Us

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Wyoming, MI 49509
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