
Educational Support

RSVP is appreciated, but not mandatory. RSVP to the WPS office (616) 538-0101 or director@wpsgr.org

***“I Feel So Alone with My Grief!
No One Gets What I’m Going
Through! What About My
Relationships with Family and
Friends?”***

Evening Zoom Support Group
Next Meeting
Tuesday, April 11th
7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Following the death of your spouse, you may have already experienced some changes in the way your family and friends relate to you. Some people may be there to support you whom you never would have expected to show up. Others, whom you thought would be there, may no longer be as close to you. For many widowed people, trying to figure out what is happening to their family relationships and friendships places an additional burden on their grief journey. Join us for a discussion of what often happens to some relationships after your spouse dies, why some of these changes may occur, and how you can best respond to them. If you have questions about this particular meeting, please call Susan at 616-780-1082.

Meeting ID: 870 8015 0645 Passcode: 587614

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.

Need help with Zoom? Email WPS Executive Director Julie Whitney JWhitney@wpsgr.org or call (616) 538-0101 for assistance.

***“Spring Is Here And I’m Still
Grieving”***

Evening Support Group
Friday, April 14th
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

***“Self-Care Through the Grief
Journey”***

Daytime Support Group
Wednesday, April 19th 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

***“How Do I Manage The Desire
To Be Physically Close Now
That I Am Widowed?”***

Evening Support Group
Tuesday, April 25th at 7:00 pm

Facilitators: Kim Slupe & Michelle Cole

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

April Social Support: Newly Widowed

THIS MONTH'S SOCIAL SUPPORT LUNCH/DINNER

Wednesday April 12th @

1:00 PM

Location: McAlister's Deli
2380 Health Dr.
Wyoming

Sunday April 30th @ 4:30 PM

Location: Longhorn Steakhouse
5088 – 28th St. 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 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.**

April 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 find 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 email 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 of 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 April 28th. Hope to see you there!!

Let's Start Golfing!!!

Tuesday April 4, 11, 18 & 25th

Location: The Pines Golf Course
5050 Byron Center Ave. SW
Wyoming

Join us each Tuesday morning for a fun golf scramble. Please be there no later than 10:30 for team draw. Golf starts promptly at 11:00 **(for April only.)**
Optional \$2.00 drawing. RSVP:
litzj@charter.net

Pickleball On Thursday!!

Thursday April 6, 13, 20 & 27th @
1:00 p.m. **(Please note change in Day!)**

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

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

Last Month of Bowling!!

Thursday April 13, 20 and 27th.
(No Bowling April 6th, Spring Break!)

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.

Card and Game Night!!

Wednesday April 19th 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!

Upcoming Highlights

Board Member of the Month: Tom Braciak

WPS was presented with an impactful gift. Tom Braciak, one of our current board members, was widowed in 1995 after his wife Mary Rose died. He began using our services and programming for the next few years. He would later contribute his time and talent serving on the WPS Board of Directors. Knowing the importance of supporting the newly widowed, Tom started a designated fund through the Grand Rapids Community Foundation to benefit WPS in later years. Once the fund grows and establishes a designated monetary amount, WPS earns proceeds that are paid out annually.

WPS is 100% donor funded each fiscal year. Donating to this fund is another way to ensure the future of WPS for years to come. These post-pandemic years have been a very unique time for WPS and many other organizations. We are excited to offer in-person as well as virtual support which will benefit from this dedicated fund and ensure future sustainability for WPS.

If you are looking for an opportunity for meaningful giving, please keep in mind Widowed Persons Service and the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

Gifts can be made online using a debit/credit card by visiting
<http://www.givegr.org/nonprofit>
Select "Widowed Persons Service Fund" from the drop-down menu

If mailing a check, address to:
Grand Rapids Community Foundation
Widowed Persons Service Fund
185 Oakes St. SW, Grand Raids, Mi 49503

Donations can also be made over the phone by calling 616-454-1751 to contact the Development Department. Proceeds from the Autumn Dance on September 29th 2023 will benefit the foundation which in turn benefits WPS. Please contact Tom with any additional questions regarding the foundation at tom@braciakfin.com or 616-560-3373.

2023 Board Members

Aggie Kempker-Cloyd – President, Mike Larabel – Vice President, Diane Lobbestael – Secretary (Widow), Roxanne Dudicz – Treasurer, Tom Braciak (Widower), Chris Wilks, Molly Black, Susanne Miller-Schachinger, Rev. Kenneth W. Hoskins, Tom Blower, April Hulst, Jim Stoddard (Widower) and Kari Sherry.



Upcoming Social Events: Dinner and a Show "The Golden Girls" at Devos Performance Hall June 8th
WPS Picnic at Whistlestop Park on Sunday August 20th

Upcoming Fundraiser Events: 35th Annual Summer Golf Outing July 13th at Thornapple Pointe Golf Club
Autumn Dance on September 29th at the Casino Club
Silent Auction on November 2nd at Aquinas College Donnelly Center

Thank You to Our Volunteers!!

A special thank you to all of our volunteers who go above and beyond in helping Widowed Persons Services!!! Volunteers are truly the heart and soul of WPS. If you would like to help out in the office, facilitate support groups, or help with a specific event, this is a wonderful way to get involved and give back to others. WPS only grows through the dedicated time and care of many individuals. Consider what you may be able to offer WPS and learn more about ways you can get involved. Please call the office or email us for more information at 616-538-0101 or email director@wpsgr.org.

4211 Clyde Park, SW (Unit C), Wyoming, MI
wpsgr.org | director@wpsgr.org | (616) 538-0101



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

Monthly Newsletter
April 2023
Issue 164

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.



4965 E. Beltline Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
(616) 361-8400

WPS Updates

Stay updated with Widowed Persons Service online:

-  www.wpsgr.com
-  Widowed Persons GR



Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Please call for an appt.

Contact Us

4211 Clyde Park, SW (Unit C)
Wyoming, MI 49509
wpsgr.org | director@wpsgr.org
[\(616\) 538-0101](tel:6165380101)