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**GROWING PUBLIC CHARITY SERVES  
WIDOWS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

***Wings for Widows provides personalized financial wellness coaching  
at no charge to help widows move forward with confidence and hope.***

Wayzata, Minnesota — February 2, 2021 — As COVID-19 enters its second year and with nearly 450,000 deaths reported in the United States, the pandemic reveals the urgent and complex needs surviving spouses face after the loss of loved ones. Many widows, in particular, struggle to gain clarity and control of their financial lives and are discovering a growing resource that can help them move forward with confidence and hope. It is the first and only organization of its kind in the United States and does not charge for its services.

Minnesotan Liane Laurion's experience inspired the launch of Wings for Widows, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. When her husband passed away in 2017 as the result of a heart attack, she turned to her new financial advisor and a colleague of David's, Christopher Bentley. The men worked together as certified financial planners at the same firm, and Bentley began helping Laurion.

"What I realized as the months passed," Laurion remembers, "is that I was slowly beginning to regain hope. But other members of my grief support group were not, including some women whose husbands had passed away before mine did."

Bentley adds, "Liane mentioned this to me and asked if I could talk to the group. I did, and afterwards she and I clearly saw the need for a new kind of nonprofit organization — volunteer-based so it could provide free services — that provides financial coaching to widows."

He continues, "Nearly 85 percent of women of all ages responding to a State Farm survey said that being the sole financial decision-maker is the most challenging aspect of being a widow. That's the main reason we launched Wings for Widows, though we now offer additional services such as widow advocacy, education and grief support."

Wings for Widows does not charge for its services and can work with men and women nationwide through one-on-one video calls. The charity offers coaching for financial needs, legal issues, taxes, social security, life insurance and much more. All financial coaches are experienced financial advisors with current practices; all other volunteers undergo in-depth training before they're allowed to work with widows.

“COVID-19 has added a new dimension to the issues new widows have to work through,” observes Bentley. “They’re already grieving, but now everything is harder, from backlogs in insurance claims to in-person meetings with bankers to make sense of financial documents. When we started Wings for Widows in 2018, we never could have imagined a global pandemic. But here we are, and we’re thankful we started when we did because now we’re well prepared to help so many in transition.”

In 2020, 30 people volunteered more than 2500 hours of service to serve men and women experiencing one of life’s most tragic events. As COVID-19 continues to take its toll, there will be no rest for Wings for Widows volunteers any time soon.

**About Wings For Widows:**

Based in Minnesota, Wings for Widows is a 501(c)3 public charity providing financial and legal coaching and education for new widows and widowers to help them achieve financial wellness after the loss of a loved one. It is the first and only organization of its kind in the United States and does not charge for its services. Wings for Widows holds the GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency and meets the standards of the Charities Review Council. The organization’s web address is [wingsforwidows.org](http://wingsforwidows.org).

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