



AWidowsTale.com

How to Bring A Widow's Tale Retreat to Your Community

Thank you for your interest in providing a healing retreat for the women of your community who are widows. A Widows Tale retreats are facilitated by Donna Marie Todd, widow and Certified Grief Recovery Specialist.® Donna Marie has been creating programs, magazines and retreats for women for over 20 years.

People often ask if there will be enough widows in their church or community to attend the retreat but you should know that the statistics on the number of women who need these retreats are staggering. Over 700,000 women are widowed in the US every year and the average age of an American widow is 57. (US Bureau of Census). Offering these healing retreats in your community is a way to support these women as they struggle to recover from the overwhelming experiences of widowhood and caregiving.

These retreats are fully inclusive with take-home materials and experienced retreat leadership. It is a fun and upbeat event filled with laughter and support. The retreats are designed for women only.

The half-day retreat typically starts at 9:30 a.m and ends at noon.

The full-day retreat typically begins at 9:30 a.m. and concludes at 4:30 p.m.

“The founder is an excellent presenter. The program is so well-designed.”
Donna, retreat participant

“It's excellent and empowering!”
Cappy, retreat participant

“What I liked was not only the sharing with other widows, which is SO wonderful, but also receiving the expertise of a grief professional and widow leader! JUST GO!”
Susan, Retreat Participant

RETREAT SPONSORSHIP

Your church or community group (Kiwanis, Rotary, Women's Club, etc.) will fully sponsor the retreat as an outreach program to the women of your community. Many times, grants are available from church and community organizations. It is also important that the women attending pay something for the experience and then know most of the retreat is being underwritten as a gift from the community.

The sponsor provides A Widow's Tale with an honorarium plus 1 night or 2 nights (full day retreat) overnight lodging and travel if required. The sponsor also provides the following: promotion of the event, the space and janitorial services for the event, a catered lunch, snacks and beverages. I suggest asking the participating women for a registration fee of \$25. The retreat can be given for up to 30 women, with a minimum of 7 women.

Promoting Your Retreat

It is extremely important to actively promote the event to ensure success. It is important to contact the women you know who need this retreat personally by phone or mail. Most widows are fighting inertia, isolation and depression. **Calling and writing them is a way that you can reach out and demonstrate your concern and offer them this healing experience.**

Leadership Honorarium, Travel and Housing Details for Retreat Leader

The half-day retreat honorarium is \$900. The full-day retreat honorarium is \$1590. If your location is further than 100 miles from the Asheville, NC area you will need to provide overnight lodging for the retreat leader for the night before the retreat and possibly the night of the retreat as well. The retreat leader can be hosted in someone's home or you can provide a hotel room. If your event is further than 250 miles from the Asheville, NC area, travel expenses (mileage or air fare) will also be required. When air travel is necessary (250 miles or further) you will also need to provide transportation to and from the airport in addition to overnight lodging.

To Learn More and Schedule A Retreat

To learn more about this program, why it was founded and what the retreats offer, visit www.AWidowsTale.com. Please listen to the audio interview on the AWidowsTale.com retreat page (with two retreat sponsors) about how they organized their retreat and what they felt the benefits to the women were. To select a date for your retreat and plan your event details, please call A Widow's Tale founder Donna Marie Todd at 828.407.6023 or email retreatinfo@awidowstale.com. ***Thank you for caring so deeply about the women in your community! I look forward to working with you.***

