



WidowWise
INSTITUTE



Meet Chris Bentley CFP®, CLU®, CRPC®, BFA™, MBA

Chris is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a Navy veteran. After leaving active military service, Chris spent a decade with Pepsi and Coca-Cola. After earning his MBA at the Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota, Chris focused on financial services. After a stint at AEI Fund Management, Chris spent the next 15 years at RBC Wealth Management and Ameriprise Financial Services. He earned his CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ designation in 2013 and built a full-service advisory and wealth management practice in the Twin Cities. Chris sold his practice in June 2022 to his partner to lead the company he founded in 2018: **Wings for Widows**, a public 501(c)3 charity, based in Wayzata, Minnesota.

Chris has authored two books. *The Legacy Planning and Conversation Guide* became an Amazon International Best-Seller in 2020. Later that year, he published *The Newly Widowed Guide to Financial Wellness*; the third edition was published in 2025.

Chris is also the Managing Director of WidowWise LLC, which founded **WidowWise University**, a one-of-a-kind educational resource for widowed individuals.

The comprehensive curriculum encompasses 10 essential financial topics, delivered through 60 lessons that feature reading materials, closed-caption videos, and downloadable worksheets.

As a national advocate and evangelist for widows' rights, Chris regularly speaks to civic organizations, financial advisory firms, and professional associations such as the Financial Planning Association (FPA). Through his work with WidowWise and the **Widowers Support Network**, he creates educational content and awareness campaigns that illuminate the overlooked challenges faced by widowed individuals. He equips audiences with practical knowledge and emotional insight, empowering professionals and the public alike to better support those navigating life after loss.

In his spare time, Chris enjoys traveling, boating, sailing, music, craft beer, fine bourbon, and time with his wife Susie, family, and friends.

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