



**WILBERT**  
FOUNDATION

The Wilbert Foundation  
**Changing Lives.**



## What is the Wilbert Foundation?

The Wilbert Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in September of 2002 as a vehicle by which Wilbert and its Licensee network could give back to the funeral industry and their respective

communities. The Foundation's first grant, to the Funeral Service Foundation, was presented in October 2002, at the NFDA Convention in the amount of \$100,000, to support programs that benefit funeral directors, their client families, and the future of the industry.



During 2003, our trustees recognized that a need existed to warrant an exclusive focus on children. It was decided that the Wilbert Foundation would concentrate on providing grants and resources to help children cope with the trauma of grief and death. Several opportunities to assist children in the grief process were explored, with a discovery made that a great financial need existed to assist Chaplain programs at Children's Hospitals.

## What is a Chaplain?

Chaplains are specially disciplined clergy, trained to serve persons in physical, spiritual, or mental need. A chaplain does not take the place of a family's own clergy, but is available to provide additional spiritual support.

Chaplains may assist in a hospital by...

- Offering spiritual and emotional support to patients and family members before, during, or after a surgery.
- Conducting special religious rituals such as baptism and prayer services.
- Consulting with families on religious and ethical issues and support them in making important decisions.
- Being a resource for useful literature and music to support patients and family members.
- Participating in grief camps to help siblings who have lost a loved one.

Throughout North America, approximately 350 Pediatric Chaplains are helping children and their families in 250 Children's Hospitals. They are a resource that children and families can lean on during their time of need.



## What does the Wilbert Foundation do?

The Wilbert Foundation's mission is to provide grants and resources to help children cope with the trauma of grief and death. A parallel exists between the emotional support a funeral professional provides to a family and how a pediatric chaplain consoles a child. We are determined to assist in providing support to children during their times of need to promote their lifelong emotional health.

To further this goal, we have partnered with the **Pediatric Chaplains Network**, a non-profit organization comprised of pediatric chaplains specializing in the care of children, to establish the **Pediatric Chaplains Institute**. By underwriting the development of a grief training curriculum, the Wilbert Foundation is helping chaplains to enhance their clinical skills and enable them to provide quality spiritual care to children and their families in a hospital or other health care setting.

We are proud of this accomplishment and will continue to work in ways which make positive differences in the lives of children and their families.



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For further information, or to make a donation, please contact us.

### **Wilbert Foundation**

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The Wilbert Foundation is a charitable 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are fully tax-deductible to the amount allowed by law.