

AnnMarie Ginella was widowed in 1997, when she was 36 years old. At the time, she was the mother of three sons, with a surprise son on the way. In 1999, she returned to school for a M.A. in English, with an emphasis in Creative Writing. Ginella writes about being a young widow in a millennium where she can respell “widoe” to create a mourning cloak that is more comfortable to wear. Her thesis is entitled, *A Postmodern Widoe*.

In 2005, AnnMarie founded WidowSpeak, a non-profit corporation, with a literary and humanitarian mission. WidowSpeak publishes stories and news about widows and the humanitarian projects supporting them. Additionally, WidowSpeak features widows in literature, music, art and photography. Widows in the Hood is the philanthropic arm of WidowSpeak, which pairs widows of resources with widows in need, creating global neighborhoods of widows.

WidowSpeak publishes the voices of widows to create more visibility of the widow’s experience, oftentimes, her plight. It is the vision of WidowSpeak that the world of widows will weave themselves into networks of support for one another, sharing time, resources and stories.