



Thank you for your kindness.

Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter – December 2025

“Kindness is costless. It’s also priceless.”

Our next meeting is on Thursday, December 11th at 12:30 at the Bacall Recreation Center as usual. This will be our annual Christmas holiday party with very little business and a lot of food and fun. We have some news to share with you, a very special speaker, some prizes to give away, a few surprises up our sleeve, and lots of good food. One of the surprises involves \$1 bills, so bring a couple with you. **Bring along an appetizer, snack, or dessert to share if you can.**

Gary Kadow will share this year’s Project SOS annual Christmas party activities and, if you’ve never heard Gary speak, you are in for a real treat.

Please join us if you can and feel free to bring a friend who might be interested in joining our club. We’d love to see some of you who haven’t been able to make past meetings.

Welcome to our new members

A warm welcome to our new members:

Mark Ellis – Village of Labelle

Michelle Sprada – Village of Belvedere

Upcoming Activities

Christmas Parade this Year

Our club has marched in the annual Christmas Parade every year. This year there is a conflict since the parade is taking place at the same time as our meeting. So, we have decided not to participate. We will participate in the St Pat's Day parade on March 17th, so put that on your calendar.

Project SOS (Support our Soldiers)

Our club has had a close relationship for years with Project SOS. We have donated to them and been a part of their annual Christmas party for families of Veterans living in the forest. Last year, some of our members bought Christmas gifts for 29 kids which were distributed at the party. This was such a wonderful experience for us.

This year some financial concerns have resulted in the need to downsize this event to include not having the handout of gifts. There will be about ½ the families that were involved in the past. The party will go on, and about 75 children will receive gift cards and, hopefully, the families will receive Christmas meals. Project SOS and Gateway To Hope feed Veterans and their families every Saturday as well.

But they need our donations (anything helps). If you would like to donate, please write a check to Project SOS and bring it to the meeting (cash works too). We will have a gift box for these checks. If you would like to donate and can't make the meeting let me know via email or phone (lindsaycollier@comcast.net or 352-552-5973)

and we'll work something out. You can be sure that every penny goes directly to helping these children.

Also, our members are welcome to attend the Christmas party which will be on Saturday, December 13 at 1:00 at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 3803 NE 7th Street, Ocala, FL 34470. This is an amazing, heart-warming experience. We will have a sign-up sheet for you to add your name to the list.

Wreaths Across America

In the last couple of years, we have had a few of our members attend the 'Wreaths Across America' event at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. This year it is on the same date as the Project SOS party.

There are 4 local cemeteries that will be participating. We thought we would try to keep it local this year. If you would like to place wreaths, select one of them and register on the website below.

[Place Wreaths - Wreaths Across America](#)

The choices are:

- Lady Lake Cemetery – 400 W McClendon St, Lady Lake
- Lone Oak Cemetery – 306 Thomas Ave, Leesberg
- Shiloh Cemetery – 194 W Fountain St, Fruitland Park
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church – 2201 Spring Lake Rd, Fruitland Park

Please let me know if you do this so I can keep track of our club's involvement. We will have a sign-up sheet for you to add your name.

New Meeting Location Starting in April

In April we will move our meeting to a new Recreation Center, Big Cypress located in The Village of Pinellas at 3110 Hendry Dr. This location is a bit closer to The Villages center but not too much farther from our northern sector members. I think it will work well for us.



Upcoming Speakers and Activities

We have some great speakers and meeting events to kick off 2026. In January we will have Lisa Lee from Nicole's Hope to share some of the wonderful things they are doing in honor of their daughter. February will feature Mary Ellen Shea who will speak to us on how she helps support those in Life Transitions and loss. In March we will engage in the making of Kindness Rocks in preparation for our march in the St Pat's Day parade – always a fun activity. And in February we hope to have a speaker from the Peyton Heart Project.

Your ideas for meeting speakers and activities are always welcome.

Jen Smith's Departure

Jen Smith has been with our club from day one and has made an enormous contribution to our success over the years. She will be leaving her position as of the first of the year because of her growing commitment with her Abundance of Love Club. We will miss her. But we will need someone to take over some of the tasks she has been carrying out (Outreach Coordinator, media contacts, social activities etc.). If you are interested let me know.

Monthly Acknowledgements of Kindness (“MAK”)

There was not a MAK last month, but we do have some lined up. If you would like to be involved, we would love to hear from you. We will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting. These acknowledgments consume little time and will make you feel good all over.

To see all the people we have honored, click [Acknowledgements](#). Believe me, you will be impressed!

Do you know someone who is exceptionally kind? You can nominate them by clicking [Nominate](#).

Chase Sanctuary Tours

We have another possible social activity for our members that involves a 2-hour interactive tour of the Chase Sanctuary in Webster. We discussed this at our last meeting and there were no sign-ups but I am going to leave it open as a possibility in the April 2026 time frame. Please send me a note if it sounds like something that piques your interest.

See their website at [Chase Sanctuary | Webster, Florida](#).



Club Sites to Visit

- Our website - <https://aaokclub.org>
- Our Facebook page
- AAOK Store for logo'ed shirts, hats, bags, and more!

See you on December 11th

Stay Healthy, Happy, and Kind,

Lindsay Collier, President, lindsaycollier@comcast.net

