



Thank you for your kindness.

Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter March 2026

“Be the reason that someone believes in the goodness of people.” - Karen Salvano

Welcome to spring in Florida! Our club has some exciting things coming up to round out our year before taking our summer break.

Our March meeting is on Thursday, March 12 at 12:30 at the Bacall Recreation Center. This will be our last meeting at Bacall, and we will be creeping a bit south to the Big Cypress Rec Center in April to better accommodate our members in the southern sector of TV.

March is always a special month for us when we march in the Saint Patrick's Day parade. Our meeting will focus on painting kindness rocks that we hand out to kids along the way. If you have ever seen the smiles on their faces when they see these rocks, you'll know why we do it. Join us to help. Everything you need will be available, including the help you need to become the artist you've always wanted to be.

If you are interested in being in the parade, there is room for a few more participants, and you can sign up at the meeting.

We're kicking off our Big Cypress meetings on April 9 with a truly inspiring guest - Judy Higbie, President of Guardian Ad Litem! Judy also served as a "Donut Dolly" during WWII and brings with her a treasure trove of unforgettable stories you won't want to miss.

Then, on May 14, we're excited to welcome Nancy Stampahar, founder of Empowering Your Power - a dynamic organization devoted to uplifting and empowering women. Get ready for another engaging and motivating session!



Welcome Our New Members

Last month we gained 10 new members. Please welcome them:

Donna Bernardi - St. James

Sharon Burns - Hadley

Lynn Schrum - McClure

Marianne Graves - Hadley

John Andrade - El Santiago

Marleen Knopf - Hadley

Carrol Walther - Tiera Del Sol

Nancy Dale - Citrus Grove

Terry and Tom McElligott - Fenney

Fundraiser

Our next fundraiser is planned on Wednesday, April 29 at 6:00 pm at the Eisenhower Recreation Center and it may just be our best yet! It will feature the comedy and magic of the very popular Todd Bogue.



Tickets are just \$20 pp and are now available for purchase online on our website at <https://www.aakclub.org>. (Zeffy is a free service for us but they will ask for a donation, and you can change it to any amount, or zero – you choose!)

MAKs – Monthly Acknowledgements of Kindness

On February 23 we acknowledged Charlie Smith of the Village of Lake Denham. Charlie is that one neighbor who watches out for everyone, takes care of everyone, and makes the most amazing banana muffins! We were able to honor him for the many examples of how he uses his time and energy to care for his neighbors in extraordinary ways!



We try to honor someone each month for exceptional kindness and, with the guidance of Cathi Coy, our VP and MAK coordinator.

Do you know someone who deserves special recognition for their exceptional kindness? It's a snap to start the process of getting them in our focus. **Nominate them from our website by clicking [Nominate](#).** This goes to Cathi, puts a big smile on her face, and she gets the ball rolling.

If you would like to be involved in one of these, we would love to hear from you. These acknowledgments consume little time and will make you feel good all over. **To see all the people we have honored, go to our website, aokclub.org, and click [Acknowledgements](#).** Believe me, you will be impressed!

Some Volunteer Kindness Activities

The "Follow the Need" shoe Drive has, for 6 years, provided thousands of shoes (19,000 last year) to women in countries like Kenya for starting their own businesses. It's an amazing effort and we have been helping them out each year. The "Shoe Us the Love" event will be held through May 20, and we currently have 6 collection points in The Villages:

- **383 Awendaw Loop in Tall Trees**
- **639 Reyes Ave in the Hacienda of Mission Hills**
- **2964 Kuzmany Court in Gilchrest**
- **2321 Stivender Place in McClure**
- **5885 Church St in St Catherine**

You can also bring these shoes to our meetings. All kinds and forms of new or gently used shoes are needed (women's, men's, kid's).



The **Wildwood Soup Kitchen** provides an amazing amount of food for those in need in the community. They are looking for volunteers to help in some areas. If you are interested, go to this site and check out the opportunities:

[Wildwood Soup Kitchen - Current Openings](#)

The **St Pat' s Day Parade** will take place on March 17 at 1:00 at Sumter Landing prior to the big celebration at Spanish Springs. We will be taking part in the parade and will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting. You can walk or take your cart but, either way, it will be the fun experience of the year.



Our **Butterfly Garden** has a couple of events coming up soon too. On Sunday, March 15 there will be a pruning and clean-up event at the garden at 10 am. This has been a challenging winter and there will likely be a lot of pruning. And on Sunday, April 19 there will be a mulch laying event to get ready for the summer months. Sign up for these events even if you don't have a green thumb. We have a few people signed up but could use a couple more. No gardening skills are needed.

If you know of a kindness spreading event our members would like to be involved in, please let one of our Board members know.

Your ideas for meeting speakers and activities are always welcome.

AAOK Club Merchandise

Our club merchandise is supplied locally through Custom Apparel. Their original store is in the Wedgewood Plaza, and they have just opened their new one in Middleton. They have our logo and can apply it to any number of items (shirts, hats, sweaters, tote bags etc.)

You can order on line at [Acts of Kindess | Custom Apparel](#).

In addition, there are a few products on our Zazzle store at [TheKindnessStore: products on Zazzle](#). New products will be added in the future.

See you on March 12

Stay Healthy, Happy, and Kind,

Lindsay Collier, President, lindsaycollier@comcast.net, 352-552-5973

