



Thank you for your kindness.

Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter April 2026

**“Smiles, Laughter, and Kindness are highly contagious.
Catch and spread some today!”**

Happy Easter to all! Our April meeting is on Thursday, April 9th at 12:30 at our new venue, the Big Cypress Recreation Center. This is located at 3110 Hendry Drive at the border between the Villages of Gilchrest and Collier. This should be a perfect meeting place for us until The Villages reaches Disney World when we'll make our next adjustment.

We have a remarkable speaker on tap, Judi Higbee, who will speak to us about the work of the Hometown Civitan Group. In addition, she will share her amazing story of when she was a Red Cross “Donut Dollie” during the Korean and Viet Nam wars. You don't want to miss this meeting! Click on this to see a YouTube about the “Donut Dollie” experience.

<https://youtu.be/FA0d YW-giY>

For our May meeting we have an equally amazing speaker, Nancy Stampahar. Nancy is the founder of the group, Empower Your Power. This group helps women of The Villages engage in deep personal growth to rediscover their strengths. Her work is simply amazing!

[Empower Your Power Club | Personal Growth for Women in The Villages, FL](#)

Fundraiser

Our next fundraiser is planned on Wednesday, April 29th 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, one of Florida's Magicians of the Year.



Tickets are just \$20 pp and the easiest way to get them is to go to our website at aaokclub.org. The opening page has all you need to order your tickets. You will be asked to add an additional donation to Zeffy for their free service. You can change the amount to anything, or nothing, your choice!

Seating will be tables of 8 and we will reserve a table for you if you purchase 8 tickets. Impress your friends or neighbors and fill a table.

Monthly AAOK's

We try to honor someone each month for exceptional kindness and, with the guidance of Cathi Coy, we are doing a very good job at it. We have several in the pipeline, but none scheduled at present in April.

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,

our VP, 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!

Rock Painting and the St Pat's Day Parade

Our St Pat's Day Parade was one of our best yet. The weather turned out great and there were big crowds with lots of kids. In our March meeting we made over 200 rocks and received numerous painted rock donations from other clubs.





In addition, we received this nice note from an admirer of our club who was there from Key West:

I wanted to reach out and say how much we love your commitment to promoting kindness in the community. Here at Gerald Adams Elementary School in Key West, FL, we pride ourselves on doing the same. We added one of your kindness rocks to our garden that I received during your St. Patrick's Day parade. Our students love painting these, and it has been such a positive incentive for them. I just wanted to let you know that your kindness footprints have made their way all the way down to the southernmost point in America.

Plant love, cultivate kindness! Guinevere Gerardot



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 20th, and we still have 3 of the 6 collection points active in The Villages:

- **383 Awendaw Loop in Tall Trees**
- **2321 Stivender Place in McClure**
- **505 Northfield Lane in Belvedere**

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). This is a great time to downsize your shoe collection.



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](#)

Flags For Florida's Fallen

On Sunday, May 24th, 2026, there will be 2 busses to take you to the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell to place flags at the graves of fallen vets. This is just an amazing experience that will tickle your kindness bone more than it was never been tickled before.

Buses will depart from two locations:

- The American Legion Post 347 on Rolling Acres Road
- The Home Depot on Powell Road

Send a check (\$20 pp) made out to Marguerite Desbrow to 1316 Hollyberry Place, The Village, Fl, 32162 to sign up. Include your cell # and email address and where you want to depart.



Our Butterfly Garden has another event coming up soon too. On Sunday, April 19th there will be a mulch laying and clean up event at the garden at 9 am. This was a challenging winter, and we had some losses with the freeze. Our Board has voted on making some \$ available for plant replacement so we may do some of that too in April.

If you would like to help in this effort let me know. We will have a sign-up at our meeting too.

Feed My Starving Children will be held at the Live Oaks Community Church on September 9-11. This has been a favorite club activity for many members, so I thought I would give you a heads up on it. I will update you with the specifics as we get closer to the date.

Friends of the Sheriff's Youth Ranches

So many of us (including me) were impressed with Marc Langroth's presentation to our club several months ago. They have a meeting coming up on April 8th from 1:00 to 3:00 at Rohan Rec Center. I will be there and hope you can join me. I guarantee you will be moved by hearing about what they do to help youths in need. Check out their newsletter at:

<https://connect.xfinity.com/appsuite/#>

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 online at <https://aaokclub.org/aaok-store>.

In addition, there are a few products on our Zazzle store at <https://aaokclub.org/aaok-store>. New products will be added in the future.

See you on April 9th

Stay Healthy, Happy, and Kind,

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



The first senior moment.
