



Thank you for your kindness.

Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter – May 2026

“Kindness is loaning someone your strength instead of reminding them of their weakness.”

This has been a wonderful year for our club! In our May 14th meeting I will let you know why with a lot of exciting news. We also have an incredible speaker that you don't want to miss. Nancy Stampahar, an instructor at the Enrichment Academy and founder of 'Empower Your Power' will be sharing her signature presentation, "The Power Behind Thinking in Your Sixties and Beyond". You don't want to miss this!

Remember, our new meeting site is the **Big Cypress Recreation Center** at 3110 Hendry Drive.

Check out Nancy's website: [Empower Your Power Club | Personal Growth for Women in The Villages, FL](#)

Welcome New Members

Barbara Hutsell – Village of DeLuna

Doreen McSain – Village of Mallory

John Canner

Fundraiser

Our April fundraiser with Todd Bogue was an amazing success! We had a packed house and Todd kept us laughing and magically amazed all night. And the funds raised will enable us to blanket The Villages (and beyond) with kindness. We are now working on an October 8th Casino Night fundraiser at Olympia Rec Center. Much of the money raised will be donated to groups that help spread kindness in our community.

If you know of a possible candidate for donation please let us know.







Follow the Need (and then some)

One of the things our club loves to do each year is to help 'Follow the Need' with their shoe drive. The shoes collected are donated to women in Kenya to help them start their shoe sales business. It's a wonderful way to spread kindness worldwide. Last year they sent 9,000 shoes and I believe they beat that mark this year – and our club was a big part of this. Thanks to all of you who took part in this.

If you have any shoes you would like to donate, bring them to our meeting and we will deliver them to the Vilain's. **This is the last call for shoes!**

This year gave us the additional opportunity to honor one of the kindest couples ever, Lila and Richard Vilain in The Village of Chalotte. They have been the main drivers of the Follow the Need shoe drive in The Villages for years as well as their many other endeavors to spread kindness worldwide.



Monthly MAK'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.

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, aookclub.org, and click [Acknowledgements](#). Believe me, you will be impressed!

Some Volunteer Kindness Activities

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 4 buses 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 has never been tickled before.

The 'white' bus which leaves from the American Legion at 347 Rolling Acres Road has the last 7 tickets so, if you want take place in this wonderful event do it quickly.

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 is our club's opportunity to show kindness to our earth. A few of us spent a couple of hours on April 19th laying mulch to get ready for summer. If you would like to help us maintain the garden we tend to in the Fred Funk Butterfly Garden, let me know.

If you would like to know more, please come to the Butterfly Club meeting on Friday, May 15th at 1:30 at the Fishhawk Rec Center. There will be a world-renowned butterfly expert speaking.

Feed My Starving Children will be held at the Live Oaks Community Church in September. 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.

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 <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 May 14th at Big Cypress

Stay Healthy, Happy, and Kind,

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