



Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

September 2026

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

I hope you all had a great summer and managed to stay cool. It's been a scorcher, and we have a scorcher of plans and events coming up in our 26/27th season.

We'll kick off the year with our 1st meeting on Thursday, September 10th, at 12:30 at the Big Cypress Recreation Center. We have a lot of exciting activities to share with you for spreading kindness as well as an opportunity to pick up kindness cards to acknowledge those you see displaying acts of kindness. You'll also have an opportunity to share stories of the kindness cards you were able to give to folks over the summer.

We have an incredible slate of speakers that will be sharing the extraordinary ways that they are spreading kindness in our community:

September 10th – Kisty Sullivan, President of Our Special Place who has been the main driver in creating a home for special needs adult children near Spanish Springs. We honored her for her kindness in early summer. She will bring some of their clients to tell us what this housing means to them.

Don't miss this – it will warm your heart!

October 8th – Dynamic Dogs. Be prepared to see some of the most amazing dogs in this club and how they bring joy and kindness to so many.

November 12th – LovExtension. Linda Krupsi and Nancy Hartkop will be our speakers. Learn about this amazing group that supplies goods to hundreds of people in need.

December 10th – Christmas party. Food and fun where everyone will get an amazing gift.

Welcome New Members!

Jules Taylor – Citrus Grove

Barbara Cadle – Palo Alto

Gigi Benefiel – Rio Ponderosa

Judi Higbee – Belvedere

Cathy Thornton – Liberty Park

Doreen McSair – Mallory Square

Cherie VanVliet – Monarch Grove

Christine Mozza – Edenfield

Joyce Riemersma – Fenney

Fundraiser

We have an incredible fundraiser coming up on Thursday, October 8 at 6:30pm at the Olympia Recreation Center in Eastport. "Kick the Bucket List; The World According to AARP" showcases 3 world class comedians that will keep you laughing all night. Tickets are just \$20/pp and they are selling quickly. Tickets are easily purchased by going to our website www.AAOKClub.org and clicking "buy tickets" on the 1st page. No paper tickets needed at the door – when you buy online, we will have your name on the list.



9/11 Presentation and Feed My Starving Children

These 2 events occurred prior to our Sept. meeting. We have 25 people signed up at see Gary Kadow's 9/11 presentation. Gary was at ground zero on 9/11 and has an amazing story to tell and video to show. Mark your calendars for next year. It's always at First Responder's Rec. Center on the Sunday before Sept. 11.

Feed My Staving Children an exciting event and this will be taking place this Wednesday, September 9th from 12-2 at Live Oaks Church behind the Wedgewood area Walmart. There are just a few slots still available. Contact Cathi@coy.org or 425-681-1585 for information and sign up.



MAKs – Monthly Acknowledgements of Kindness

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 are always looking for more.

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 at www.aakclub.org/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, aakclub.org, and click [Acknowledgements](#). Believe me, you will be impressed – we have honored more than 50 pillars of kindness in The Villages so far!

Over the summer we honored 2 incredibly kind persons:

We honored Joan Fogle on July 1st at the Churchill Recreation Center for her kindness in running a crafting group that contributes so much to those in need. Her kindness goes well beyond that since she is always giving to others.



On August 2nd we honored Tammy Starling at the Ezell Recreation Center for her work in the water exercise program for those south of 44. Her kindness spreads to other areas and she truly has a heart full of kindness.



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](#)

Our Butterfly Garden is our club's opportunity to show kindness to our earth. 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 go to their [website](#).

Get Involved!!

We are currently in need of a Treasurer to be a part of our Board. You don't need to be a financial genius. If you can balance a checkbook and are willing to be a part of our exciting Board, talk to me.

We also need someone to help with the social activities of our club. You would keep track of the inventory of our supplies and help set up meetings that include goodies. This is not a big time-consumer – just a lot of fun. Let me know if you are interested.

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](#).

See you on September 10th at Big Cypress

Stay Healthy, Happy, and Kind,

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

