



*Thank you for your kindness.*

## **Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter**

*April 2024*

*To the world you might be just one person, but to one person you just might be the world. – Mark Twain*

Our April meeting is on Thursday, April 11th at 12:30 at Bacall Recreation Center. Our member, Pat Worcester, will tell us all about a group called "Bless Wildwood" which I am sure you will find to be a nice story of kindness. We also have a lot of exciting events to discuss which will create some great opportunities to put your kindness to use.

In our recent survey we had some feedback from some that asked for more discussions of kindness. In our meeting we will delve into the topic of "Gratitude" as a key driver of kindness. This will be the first in several future discussions of the key drivers of kindness.

## March Events

In March we had two very successful events. We again marched in the St Pat's Day parade in Spanish Springs, always a fun event. The crowds were enormous, and we were able to distribute lots of candy and kindness cards to those along the way.

We also had our bi-annual fundraiser with Mike Palma which was enjoyed by all. The money raised will be donated to several groups that help create a culture of kindness in The Villages and surrounding area.



## Flags for Fallen Vets

One of our most exciting yearly events is **Flags for Fallen Vets** at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. Our goal this year is to again sign up a busload (53) of members and their guests. The event will take place on Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 11:30. Busses will depart from 2 locations at 7:30.

1. The American Legion Post 347 on Rolling Acres Rd.
2. Lowes parking lot off route 466A in The Villages.

The cost is \$20 pp and, if you would like to join us, please send a check made out to 'Marguerite Desbrow' (include cell and email address) and send to her at 1316 Hollyberry Pl, The Villages, FL. 32162. Call her at 352-633-0882 for more information.

This is a fantastic event and, if you have never been to the National Cemetery I assure you it will be a wonderful experience for you! Each person will receive 25 flags to place at grave sites and more if desired.



## National Volunteer Week Team

United Way of Lake and Sumter counties is sponsoring several projects during national volunteer week. **Acknowledging Acts of**



**Kindness Club** has a chance to volunteer at the Wildwood Soup Kitchen, 201 Barwick Street in Wildwood on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30.

This is a great opportunity to make an impact in your community and show your commitment to your neighbors in Lake and Sumter County.

Only a few positions are available so email Jen Smith at [jpsmith5@comcast.net](mailto:jpsmith5@comcast.net) with your name, phone number, and shirt size if you are interested.

### **“Follow the Need” Shoe Drive**

This group is sponsoring a “shoe drive” which will help several women in Guatemala to open a used shoe business. Attached is a flyer on this. This is a great opportunity to pare down your shoe collections and spread kindness to another part of the world. Bring your used (but not abused) shoes to the meeting or drop them off at the address on the flyer. Tell your friends about it too.

### **Wine and Chocolate Bingo**

**Abundance of Love** is sponsoring a Wine and Chocolate Bingo night on Tuesday, April 16 at 6pm at the Fishhawk Rec Center. No tickets are needed, and Bingo game books can be purchased for \$15 at the door. Proceeds are used to purchase yarn, fabric, and supplies for their many charitable projects. Contact Nancy Still at 301-538-3103 for more information.

## Club Social Activities

From time to time, we like to have social activities for our club, and it was suggested that one possibility would be a Poker Run. We are looking for someone who may have some experience in these and would like to help us out. Any takers? Please!

## Ways to Get Involved in Our Club

Here are a few upcoming opportunities to be more involved in our club.

- Social Director – Help organize events involving food and social activities.
- Website Manager – Update our website (AAOKClub.org) from time to time. Minimal experience needed – we will train.
- Newsletter Editor – I've been doing this for 5 years. Time for someone else to take over.
- Fundraiser Director – help plan and organize our 2 yearly fundraisers.
- Educational Focus Group – your chance to help promote kindness in our local students. We would like to get some activities started for the next school year.

If any of these possibilities sound good to you contact me at [aaokclub@gmail.com](mailto:aaokclub@gmail.com). We guarantee it will be a positive, fun experience for you.

## Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Events (AAOK's)

Our goal is to have one AAOK each month. Do you know of someone who deserves to be acknowledged for their exceptional kindness? Perhaps a friend or neighbor or even someone you have read about that has done something extraordinarily kind. If so let us know. We have a couple of people we plan on honoring but are always looking for more.

If you know of someone who we should honor just contact me or any of our Board members and we will make sure it happens.

### Club Sites to Visit

- [Our club's website](#)
- [Our Facebook page](#)
- [Our Facebook group](#)
- [Custom Apparel](#) (go to businesses/groups A-L for our catalogue)

See you on April 11 th

Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!

Lindsay Collier, President, [Lindsaycollier@comcast.net](mailto:Lindsaycollier@comcast.net)

*"To be kind is more important than to be right. Many times, what people need is not a brilliant mind that speaks, but a special heart that listens."*