



Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

September 2023

Our September meeting is on **Thursday, September 14th at 12:30 at the Bacall Recreation Center**. We have some very special plans for this meeting to kick off our 23/24 season. We also have some great opportunities coming up that will help us to carry out our mission to create a culture of kindness in The Villages and beyond. This will be our best year ever – I promise!

Our speaker will be Reece Ponds, past Miss Teenager Leesburg. During her reign as Miss Teenager at 14 she broke a 35-year-old record by having her team donate over a ton of food to those in need. Reece is an absolutely stunning example of living a life of kindness, and she will share her story. She lives by the motto, “When you bring joy to others, you bring more to yourself”. Don’t miss this one!

We will also discuss some of our recent events and some of the ones we have planned for the upcoming year. If you have any stories of kindness which you have experienced or enabled over the summer, bring them along.



Welcome to Our New Members

In our last meeting and during the summer we gained 4 new members:

- Carolyn Maiorino – Summerhill
- Kathy Sager – Mira Mesa
- Pat Worchester
- Pam Swinehart – Buttonwood

We now have 222 members from 60 different Villages! That's impressive, except that there are many of you who signed up and have never been to a meeting or involved in any of our events. If you are no longer interested, please let me know (lindsaycoller@comcast.net).

A very special welcome to our new Board member, Carol Augustson, who will be our Membership Chair. Carol will be there to greet you with that wonderful smile of hers in September.

June Meeting

In the final club meeting before our summer break, we had the honor of acknowledging 2 very special guests. Aubrey and Meredith Bishop, ages 10 and 6, from Clermont were honored for starting a kindness club in their schools. They are the grandchildren of Betsy and Jim Bishop of The Villages. Honoring these two special kids was truly a wonderful experience. This is the first time we have honored young students but certainly won't be the last. We honored them with Kindness Certificates, some special Kindness Rocks made by Linda Martin, a "Kindness Rocks" book, and some special gifts.



Upcoming Fundraiser

We have our bi-annual fundraiser coming up on November 5th from 6-8 pm at Lake Miona Recreation Center. This will be a great show called, "Curly Girls Musical Comedy Show" starring Leesah Stiles & Krista Joy. I believe this is the first time this show has appeared in The Villages. The show has received so many great accolades and it might just be the best show of the year! By the way, guys will love this show too!

Tickets will be on sale at our September meeting for members and then open to the public. Tickets are \$15 PP and we will have tables of 8 which can be reserved. This is a great opportunity to get 8 of your friends and neighbors together for a great night of entertainment. Please call Jen Smith at 352-250-3431 or Linda Martin at 864-337-6808 to reserve your tickets or reserve a table.

A flyer is attached so you can share it with your friends.



Giving Clubs Showcase

Our club is co-sponsoring two showcases a year, one in October and one in February. Our next one will be on October 28th from 10:00 - 2:00 at the Ezell Recreation Center. About 44 clubs will be there to showcase how they spread kindness in our community. **Attached is a flyer for this so spread the word if you can.**

AAOK's – Acknowledging Acts of Kindness

We try to have an AAOK each month and we do have an exciting one scheduled for September. In these we acknowledge someone who has shown exceptional kindness. If you know of someone, please let us know. Involvement in this is loads of fun and takes little time. Let us know if you would like to be on the list for future AAOK'S.

Upcoming Events

We have several events planned for the 23/24 year and you can see them all on our calendar on the website (aaokclub.org). This is a great way to stay involved.

- Monthly AAOK's (Acknowledging Acts of Kindness)
- Fundraisers (two per year)
- Wreaths Across America in December
- Flags for Fallen Vets – pre Memorial Day
- Project SOS Christmas Party in December
- Himalayan Golf (twice per year)
- Villages Christmas Parade
- St Pat's Day Parade

New Kindness Cards

Our board met in August to discuss the possibilities for a new design for our kindness cards. We have an exciting possibility and are working with a vendor to help us design the cards. More on that later.

Club Shirts, Hats, Nametags, and More

Custom Apparel in the Publix Plaza on 466 has a catalog of products with our club logo. This includes men's and women's Tee and polo shirts, full zipper fleeces, nametags, totes, and hats. And the prices are very reasonable. Visit them today and check out their great selections so you can show our AAOK Club colors.

[Acts of Kindness Club | Custom Apparel \(customapparelthevillages.com\)](http://customapparelthevillages.com)

Kindness Certificates

Our Certificates of Kindness are another very easy way we use to acknowledge acts of kindness. If you have someone you know who has shown exceptional kindness you can use this to acknowledge them. We will provide you with a copy complete with the recipient's name. If you would like to do this let me know (lindsaycollier@comcast.net) and I will work with you to make it happen.



Website and Facebook Sites

Check out our website which has been recently updated and has a complete synopsis of all our AAOK's (in the awards section). You'll be impressed, I guarantee.

Visit this often to see the latest events and news. Our blog is a way of sharing interesting articles on kindness, and **we invite you all to contribute to this**. The latest blogs include articles from two of our members and a story of kindness that will bring tears to your eyes. If you have something you would like to share sent it to aaokclub@gmail.com and we will make sure it is added (with your name of course). While you are on the site check out the latest blogs and enjoy.

We also have a Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/AcknowledgingActsOfKindness>

and a Facebook group at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2392926004127163>

Check them out, give a big like, post some good stuff, and share it with as many as you can! You will find a lot of interesting examples of kindness on these sites.

See you on September 14h!

Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!

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



A SINGLE ACT OF
Kindness
THROWS OUT ROOTS
IN ALL DIRECTIONS,
AND THE ROOTS SPRING
UP AND MAKE NEW TREES.

- AMELIA EARHART



lifemello
Some stranger
somewhere
still remembers you
because you were kind
to them when
no one else
was.