



Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

December 2023

Our next meeting is on Thursday, December 14th, at 12:30 at the Bacall Recreation Center.

We will have our annual Christmas party with some magic, a slide show of our year's activities, a look into 2024, some challenging games, and lots of good food. If you can, bring an appetizer, snack, dessert, or a favorite dish of yours (I personally like Alaskan King Crab). Hope to see you there for this fun event.

In January we will have a speaker from the Humane Society and we have some other exciting speakers in mind for 2024.

New Kindness Cards

We will also have our new kindness cards for you at the meeting which we are quite excited about. Come and get them!!



Giving Clubs Showcase

On Saturday, Feb 3rd 2024 we will be sponsoring our bi-annual Giving Clubs Showcase at Lake Miona Recreation Center from 10:00-2:00. Mark your calendars for this event which will feature over 70 clubs and organizations that help create a culture of kindness in our community.

AAOK's

Our AAOK's (Acknowledging Acts of Kindness) are some of our most exciting events and we would love to have more of you volunteer to be a part of them. It takes little time, and it will make you feel good all over! We have several tentative AAOK events in the offing but are always looking for more. Our goal is to have one each month. Do you know of someone who deserves to be acknowledged for their exceptional kindness. If so let us know.

In November we honored Anne Bosler from the Village of Hadley who worked tirelessly to create the Caring Neighbors program in The Villages. Her goal is to have one of these in every village.

Gateway To Hope/Project SOS Christmas Party

This year several club members bought Christmas gifts for 27 children from 8 families of Veterans living in the Ocala Forest. Their annual Christmas party was held in Ocala and attended by several of our members. Abundance of Love, AAOK, Boomer Loomers, and several other Villages groups helped with this event. Particular thanks to Jen Smith for all she did to make this event such a success.



Christmas Parade

We again marched in The Villages Christmas Parade which is an event always enjoyed by all. We had 7 well-decorated golf carts and a lot of walkers who handed out around 1500 kindness cards and over 250 kindness rocks, mostly to kids along the parade route.





Upcoming Events

We have some exciting events coming up. Learn more about and sign up for these at our meetings or at aaokclub@gmail.com.

- St Pat's Day Parade – March 17th, 2024

- Flags for Fallen Vets – Pre-Memorial Day, 2024

Wreaths Across America

In the last couple of years, we have had a few of our members attend this event at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. We will not be organizing an event this year but, if you would like to go on your own, go to this site to get the info you need.

[Overview - Wreaths Across America](#)



Days of Service

Here is something new we are going to try which many of you may find exciting. From time to time, we will have "Day of Service" events to give our members the opportunity to participate in a variety of acts of kindness. We feel we have a perfect event to begin this activity.

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) offers an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children around the world! It offers volunteers a one-of-a-kind experience. You'll hand-pack rice, soy, dried vegetables, and a nutritionally complete blend of vitamins and minerals into bags which are then sealed, boxed, placed on pallets and shipped to partners working hard to reach the neediest children around the world.

Through volunteering at FMSC, you'll get the chance to impact hundreds of kids in just two hours! You'll experience what it's like to make a tangible difference with your kindness. Our club will also be making a donation to FMSC.

Packing meals will take place at Live Oak Community Church, 12070 CR 103, Oxford, on Wednesday, Feb 28th.

We will have a sign-up sheet for those interested at our meeting, or you can sign up at AAOKclub@gmail.com.

Another future event we are anticipating is a "Team Building Work Day" at the Chase Sanctuary & Wildlife Conservation in Webster. Have some ideas of other possible events? Let us know.

Carpenter House

Jean and I had the honor of presenting our gift of \$300 in Sam's Club gift cards to Pat Manfredi of the Carpenter House. They now have a new house in Umatilla which they will be adding to so they can handle the six children they currently have.



Kindness Goes Viral with Steve Hartman

This is a little over 40 minutes but it's well worth your time -some wonderful stories of kindness!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WL54nQy6NYA>

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's and polo shirts, full zipper fleeces, nametags, totes, and hats. And the prices are very reasonable. Their catalogue can be seen at [aaokclub merchandise](#) and you can order online if desired. Visit them today and check out their great selections so you can show our AAOK Club colors.

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. If you would like to do this let me know (aaokclub@gmail.com) and we will work with you to make it happen.



Website and Facebook Sites

We have a terrific website (AAOKClub.org). 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 December 14th!

Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!

Lindsay Collier, President, Lindsaycollier@comcast.net

Kindness
doesn't cost a thing,
yet it's the richest gift
you can give.

