



Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

May 2020

Well, my friends, it's been a pretty trying time but we are almost out of the woods. There will be no May meeting but I am pretty sure we will begin meeting again in June. Things will likely be a bit different in terms of layout etc, but it will still be great to get back together. So make sure you have **Thursday, June 11th at 2:30 at Bacall Recreation Center** down on your calendar. I will let you know if there are any changes.

First of all, a warm welcome to our new member, **Tweet Coleman (Hillsborough)**. She heard about us through one of our members and is quite excited about being a part of our club. The best advertisement is word of mouth and my experience is that folks just love what we do. If you have any friends or neighbors who would like to be a part of our club let them know?

Effect of Covid 19

We were really on a roll when this pandemic hit. Our focus groups were poised to create some real possibilities with local schools, businesses, and social clubs. We had two very exciting Level Two Acknowledgments scheduled and many of us

were handing out our kindness cards like mad. All that came to a screaming halt during the shutdown. My guess is that we probably won't be back to full speed until the fall. But I'm sure many of you are busy doing what you can to show kindness to your friends, neighbors, and family.

Do you have a story to tell about kindness during the shutdown? If so, pass it on to me and I will share it.

Wishing You a Happy Day from a Distance

Our member, Chardell Kern, designed the wonderful cards we give to Level Two Honorees as well as our Certificate of Kindness, Journal, and a number of other craft projects. In her spare time she put together a card made especially to wish people a Happy Day during this crisis. You can make your own by printing this on Avery Business Card Stock (or plain stock). If you are interested, let me know and I'll get the files to you.



Certificate of Kindness

We were fortunate to award our first Certificate of Kindness to Anne Sheehan just a few days before she and her husband, Terry, returned to Dayton, Ohio. Thanks again, Anne, for all you do. We have another one to award at our June meeting

and I'm keeping this a surprise. Our goal is to try to have a Level Two acknowledgement each month, but there is a good amount of work putting these together. The Certificate of Kindness is very easy and serves as a good middle ground for AAOK's. If you know of someone deserving of a certificate, let us know.



Club Fund Raiser

In September we are planning a fund raiser for our club. This will give us the opportunity to afford some of our events and activities while maintaining our no membership fee policy. Jen Smith is an expert in this area and will be arranging for Jukebox Bingo with Rick Mitchell in mid September. There will be more on this exciting event later.

Village Neighbors Magazine

Denise Lasley has been a member of our club from the start, and is also a Content Coordinator for Village Neighbors Magazine. She wrote a wonderful article about our club in the magazine a few months ago. She wants to have a monthly feature about our club events. What a great idea! The April edition had a one page article on Anne Sheehan and how she has brought our kindness cards to Dayton, Ohio.

I will be coordinating with Denise regarding each month's articles. So if you have any ideas on who or what to feature, please let me know. And thanks so much for doing this, Denise.

NEW FEATURE

ACKNOWLEDGING ACTS OF KINDNESS

By Denise Lasley

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In the December, 2019 issue of Village Neighbors magazine, we featured a Village's lifestyle group called Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club (AAOK). Their mission:

TO IDENTIFY AND ACKNOWLEDGE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY WHO HAVE CARRIED OUT ACTS OF KINDNESS.

The members of AAOK make it a point to recognize and reward those who have gone above and beyond in showing kindness to others. "People who help others are the best role models, and recognizing their acts of kindness helps to promote this behavior in our community and beyond and promotes a 'Culture of Kindness,'" explains president Lindsay Collier.

"This is the first club of its kind," said Joe Santoro, who spearheaded the formation of the group. All of the members carry cards they hand out as they observe acts of kindness. And you are encouraged to contact the club to nominate members of the community who deserve special recognition for their acts of kindness.

In March 2019, Anne Sheehan and her husband Terry rented a home in the Villages. Anne heard about the *AAOK Club* and was so impressed that she asked if she could start a club in her hometown of Dayton, Ohio. Anne has gone on to aggressively promote the club and their kindness cards in many schools and organizations in Dayton and the surrounding community. At this point she has circulated over 32,000 of these cards. The club awarded Anne with their first Kindness Certificate.

Collier and the members of the AAOK club want to share this message with their neighbors in the Villages: "Situations like this tend to bring out the kindness in people. So stay kind and look for opportunities to acknowledge others who display kindness," Collier.

For more information on how to nominate someone for recognition of their kind acts, visit [www.https://www.aaokclub.org](https://www.aaokclub.org). Each month the club will share inspirational stories from around the community. ■



Club Shirts

Here is the status on club shirts. We currently have 5 T-Shirts left (3 LG and 2 XL). These are just \$10 each. We also have 8 collared shirts in various sizes. These are \$20 each. Money from these sales goes directly into our treasury. When these are sold we will be getting all of our shirts through Custom Apparel in the Southern

Trace Plaza off Rte 466. At Custom Apparel you will be able to get the shirt design of your choice with our logo. You will also be able to have your name on it for a slight charge. The only thing we ask is that your color be our club's red.

Here is an example of one of the styles that will be available at Custom Apparel:



Kindness Rocks

Our member, Shirley Knight, began making these "Kindness Rocks" which we have used to hand out at special occasions (Level Two events, parades etc). People love them! If any of you would like to paint some of rocks we can get you a supply to get you started.



A Little Humor to Brighten Your Day

The Fairy Godmother

A married couple in their early 60s was celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary in a quiet, romantic little restaurant.

Suddenly, a tiny yet beautiful fairy appeared on their table. She said, 'For being such an exemplary married couple and for loving each other for all this time, I will grant you each a wish.'

The wife answered, 'Oh. I want to travel around the world with my darling husband.' The fairy waved her magic wand and - poof! - two tickets for the Queen Mary appeared in her hands.

The husband thought for a moment: 'Well, this is all very romantic, but an opportunity like this will never come again. I'm sorry my love, but my wish is to have a wife 30 years younger than me.'

The wife, and the fairy were deeply disappointed, but a wish is a wish.

So the fairy waved her magic wand and - poof!-the husband became 92 years old.

Well that's about it for now. Stay safe and we'll see you soon - Lindsay

