



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

**August/September 2021**

We hope your summer is going well. We decided not to have a meeting in August since many of us were taking much needed trips. So we will start September with a bang! Our club is doing great and getting some wonderful exposure. **Our next meeting is on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 at the Bacall Recreation Center.**

We will have a wonderful speaker, Sue Roper, who will share with us the fine work of the Tri-County Women's Veterans. We also have a few surprise firsts which I know you will enjoy. We will begin as usual with our happy/sad exercise so don't forget to bring a couple of one dollar bills. Also bring along any stories you would like to share of kind acts you have observed.

### **Kindness Cards and Card Stations**

The giving out of our Kindness Cards is one of the things that make us stand out and the process goes a long way in promoting our mission of creating a culture of kindness. We have a good supply of these cards but the challenge is making sure you can get them when needed. They are always available at meetings, but we are now trying to set up card stations at strategic locations around The Villages to make it easy to get them as needed. We now have stations at the following locations:

Linda Riccardi's home in Alhambra at 2795 Privada Drive in **The Village of Alhambra**

Lindsay and Jean's home at 383 Awendaw Loop in The village of **Tall Trees**

Marie Anderson's home at 1073 Nichols Terrace in the village of **Virginia Trace**

Judy Samuelson's home at 1817 Ashwood Run in the village of **Pennecamp**

Amy and Anthony Donato's home at 5441 Reynolds Rd in the village of **Marsh Bend**

We are looking for a few others in the following areas:

- The Historical Area east of 441
- The area between 466 and 466A
- The far south area currently being developed.

The only requirement is to be yearlong resident and have a sheltered area to display the cards.

Also, our website includes the ability for users to request cards and we have had requests for nearly 800 cards from this. Most are from The Villages, but some are from other parts of the country. Linda Riccardi is handling the distribution of these cards, and our warm thanks to her for this.

### ***Kindness Rocks! Book***

***Kindness Rocks! How to Live a Life of Kindness*** was recently published and is one of the most unique books available on the topic. It includes some great information on the nature of kindness and its many benefits. It also includes

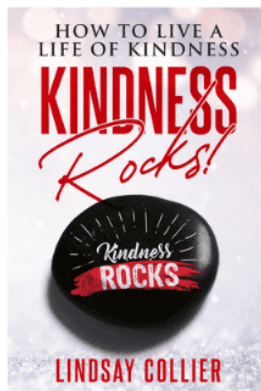
about 60 things you can do to make kindness a part of your life. Also included are some of the most wonderful stories of kindness (including some from our own club members). **This book is available on Amazon and will also be featured at All Booked Up and Barnes and Noble during the month of September.**

Five Dollars will be given back to our club for all books purchased through September (a bit less for Kindle versions). All you need do is purchase the book and **write a review on Amazon**. Send a note to [aaokclub@gmail.com](mailto:aaokclub@gmail.com) when that is complete and the donation will be made. The Amazon site for the book is:

<https://amzn.to/389y0U7>

## **Kindness Is the New Cool!**

**This new book will give you all you need to live a life of kindness!**



***It's been said that 'Kind' is the new cool. The main thrust of this book is to help you to raise your own level of kindness and promote a culture of kindness wherever you go. This book takes a unique look at the nature, characteristics, and benefits of kindness. Most importantly, it details dozens of ways that you can use to lead a life of kindness. These techniques will help you lead a more fulfilling, happier life, and also to become a prophet of kindness with all those you impact. You will also have fun along the way and experience some wonderful stories of kindness.***

### **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, masks, totes, and hats. And the prices are very reasonable. Their catalogue can be seen at [aaokclub merchandise](#) and you can order on line if

desired. Visit them today and checkout their great selections so you can show our AAOK Club colors.

## **Requests for Nominees and Speakers**

Our monthly Acknowledgement Events are one of the most exciting things we do. We have a lot of fun doing these and we are always looking for people to be involved. **Any member can be a part of these events.** Our Candidate Selection and Event Coordination Focus Group does all the work and we would love to have other members play a part in these events. They take little time and are very rewarding.

We also have a process for nominating those you think should be honored for their kind acts. Send a note to [aaokclub@gmail.com](mailto:aaokclub@gmail.com) if you have a possible honoree in mind and we'll get the process started.

Also, if you know of any potential speakers for our meetings who are engaged in kind acts, please let us know.

## **Our August Acknowledgement Event**

On August 24 we acknowledged Barbara Huy for her exceptional kindness. Jen Smith orchestrated the event and along with Jean Collier, and Amy and Anthony Donato carried out an exciting surprise event that involved a large number of neighbors. Jen will give us an update of this at our upcoming meeting.

Barbara Huy is very active with Boomer Loomers as well as the Trades of Hope, an organization that empowers women to escape sex trafficking and bondage. She also is active in helping out homeless people in the area and a water aerobics instructor who take a very special interest in her students.



## Need for a Website Advisor

Tweet Coleman has resigned as our Website Advisor because of other commitments. She did a wonderful job and we thank her. Our website is all set up but we need someone who can add information such as blogs, news items,

newsletters, etc. All you need is a basic idea of website constructs and we will supply you with some training from our website designer. Please respond if you are interested.

## **Education Focus Group**

We created an Educational Focus Group to collaborate with local schools to encourage students and staff to use our process of acknowledging acts of kindness. This group, under the leadership of Margaret Wolfe, has been doing an outstanding job. **Just think of the possible impact on our future in helping kids learn how to live lives of kindness!**

They have distributed 3500 cards to schools in Lake Panasoffkee, Webster, South Sumter, Fruitland Park, and Lady Lake. They are also working on Villages Charter, Bushnell, and Wildwood schools. Margaret will update us on this effort at our upcoming meeting.

## **Plan for a Fund Raiser**

As many of you know, we had our first fund raiser early this year with Suzi Casta to help put us in a financial position to carry out the activities to promote a culture of kindness in our community. This was very successful and we will be planning another in early 2022. Our intention is to maintain enough in our treasury to carry out our acknowledgement, and pay expenses. Anything over and above that will be used to make donations to help other groups that are engaging in kind acts.

In our September meeting we will begin this process.

## Updating Membership

If you are getting this newsletter you are on our membership list. There are a good number of folks on this list that we have not heard from at all. **If you no longer want to be listed as a member please let us know.** We understand how busy so many of us are – retirement can be a lot of work.

## Social Events

From time to time we like to have some social events for the purpose of getting to know one another and just having fun. In the past we have had Himalayan golf, gatherings at restaurants, etc. If you have any ideas for future social events, please let us know.

## 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 ([lindsaycollier@comcast.net](mailto:lindsaycollier@comcast.net)) and I will work with you to make it happen.



## Website and Facebook Sites

We have a terrific website ([AAOKCub.org](http://AAOKCub.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](mailto: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 9th!**

Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!

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



You do not know me but I saw that you needed some tires for your truck and I wanted to do something nice for a stranger because one day a stranger did the same for me. The receipt is in the envelope and all you have to do is go by Warehouse Tire on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and ask for Steven Hodges and they will be put them on for free. All I ask is that one day you do something nice for a complete stranger.

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