



Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

July 2021

We are back in full swing now with a couple of very successful meetings following the pandemic. The future is looking very bright for us! Our next meeting is on Thursday, July 8 in the Key Largo Room at Bacall at 12:30. **Bring some \$1 bills for our happy/sad opener.** We have a lot of updates to cover and will also have a very interesting speaker I know you will enjoy.

Welcome New Members

A warm welcome to our new members:

Elaine Bongiovi (Poinciana)

Cheryl and Stan Misiazek (Santa Domingo)

Gene Murray (Pennecamp)

Rosanne Wohlenwender (Tierra Del Sol)

Beth Chamberlain (Sunset Pointe)

Mary Mobilian (Pine Hills)

Puerto Valletta Condo Raffle

In our June meeting we had the drawing for the Puerto Valletta condo contributed by our member, Kathie Dieter. Our thanks to Kathie for this! The raffle along with our Suzie Casta fundraiser has given us a comfortable treasury. This will help in our mission to create a culture of kindness in our community.

The winner was Marie Anderson who just happened to be the first person we honored for her work as the “Acquisition and Distribution Diva”. At the time Marie was involved in an amazing effort of acquiring goods and donating them to those in need.

AAOK Events

One of our most exciting activities is the honoring of those who have shown exceptional kindness. These honorees are nominated by members and others, and are reviewed by our Candidate Selection and Events Coordination Focus Group. Our plan is to have one of these events each month.

On June 14th we acknowledged Gene Murray of the Village of Pennecamp for the extraordinary kindness he has shown helping neighbors wherever and whenever needed. He was instrumental in starting the Neighbors Saving Neighbors AED program in his neighborhood and continues to run it smoothly. Gene is always the first to offer help to someone in need, and often knows when someone needs a helping hand before they do. Several members of our club surprised Gene at an AED meeting in his home and presented him with a Certificate of Kindness, a restaurant gift certificate, and a signed copy of “Kindness Rocks!”. Jen Smith donated a red, white, and blue blanket made by Abundance of Love. We thank

Judy Samuelson for nominating Gene and helping to orchestrate the event and Jean Collier, Jeri Frazer, and Jen Smith for their help.



On July 1st we had a very exciting AAOK event and our first to take place outside of The Villages bubble. We acknowledged 2 people who were instrumental in the building of a 'Tiny Home' along with 50 youths from the Arnette House, a home for troubled youths in Ocala. The event took place at The Veteran's Park in Ocala and was absolutely wonderful! Our acknowledgement was included in the agenda along with the Mayor of Ocala, State Senator Baxley and other dignitaries. After all the speeches the bus covering the tiny home was moved and the keys presented to a deserving veteran. The Mayor suggested that they should have a club like our in Ocala.

Our thanks to Jen Smith for helping make all this happen and to Jean Collier and Margaret and Bob Wolfe for being a part of the event. Lots of cards were handed out to those attending, including the youths that help build the house.



Our monthly acknowledgements are a good opportunity for getting involved. They are very rewarding, lots of fun, and consume little time. At our last meeting I asked if there was anyone who would like to be a part of these events and not a single hand went up which was quite disappointing. I realize most of us are very busy, but the success of our club depends on active support from as many as possible. Another way of helping is to nominate those who are deserving of acknowledgement. We have a form for doing that on our website or you can just request one from me.

Miscellaneous Items

Speakers for our meetings

In the last few meetings we have tried out the idea of having a speaker with a story of kindness to share. The feedback on this has been quite good and we will try to continue to find good speakers. If you know of someone who has a good story to tell about kindness in The Villages, please let us know.

Scrapbook

In our 2 years we have amassed a considerable amount of publicity for our club and our members. We will be working on the development of a club scrapbook with the help of Karen Geckler. Thanks, Karen, for offering your help.

Ad in the July Villages Magazine

The monthly Villages Magazine is doing a special on Villages clubs with a tear out ad for clubs. For those who get the Villages Sun Newspaper this will be included with your paper early in the month. Please share this ad with friends or tear it out and bring it to the next meeting. This is what it will look like:



Abundance of Love Fundraiser

As many of you know, our Treasurer and charter member, Jen Smith, has devoted herself to spreading kindness in our community. Her latest effort is leading a group called **Abundance of Love**. They are planning a fund raiser on July 10th at 5:30 at La Hacienda Recreation Center. Tickets are just \$10. The event is called "Not Your Grandma's Bingo" with Rick Mitchell, Professional DJ. If you have never experienced Rick Mitchell, you are in for a great experience! Contact Nancy Still, 301-538-3103 for tickets.

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.

Cards and Kindness Certificates

One of the easiest ways to promote kindness is to acknowledge kind acts as you see them with our Kindness Cards. Between our club and our Dayton, Ohio affiliate we have handed out more than 40,000 of these. Joe Santoro supplies these for us and has just received an order of 10,000! You can always pick up as many cards as you need at our meetings. If you can't make the meeting the cards are always available for pickup at my open front porch at 383 Awendaw Loop in the Village of Tall Trees. Just drop by and pick up as many as you need. Eventually it would be nice to have various locations in The Villages where people could easily get cards. So if you have an open area that could serve as a card station let us know.

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) and I will work with you to make it happen.

CERTIFICATE *Of* KINDNESS

Recipient Name

The Villages Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club thanks you for your extraordinary kindness. Your kind acts and positive attitude serve as a model for others to promote a culture of kindness in our community and beyond.

AOK
ACTS OF KINDNESS CLUB
PROMOTING A CULTURE OF KINDNESS

KINDNESS
Rocks!

PRESENTED BY: _____

ON THIS DAY: _____

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring - all of which have the potential to turn a life around. - Leo Buscaglia

Website and Facebook Sites

We have a terrific website (AAOKCub.org) and our Website Advisor, Tweet Coleman, is doing a wonderful job keeping this up to date. 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.

Club Merchandise

Custom Apparel in the Publix Plaza on 466 now 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. Our catalogue can be seen at [aaokclub merchandise](#) and you can order on line if desired.

See you on July8th!

Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!

Lindsay Collier, President, Lindsaycollier@comcast.net

“A LITTLE SPARK OF
KINDNESS CAN PUT A
COLOSSAL BURST OF
SUNSHINE INTO
SOMEONE’S DAY.”

—UNKNOWN

www.paintedteacup.com