



Thank you for your kindness.

Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

January 2025

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” – Winston Churchill

We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and wish you a very Happy New Year. I have always looked at this time of the year as an opportunity to rejoice in the past year's accomplishments and, more importantly, to work on how to make the next year's accomplishment's even better. That's my goal for our club.

Our first meeting of 2025 will be on Thursday, Jan 9th, from 12:30 to 2:00 at the Bacall Recreation Center as usual. We will begin with a Power Point slide show of the year 2024 events and accomplishments which we hope will leave you with a healthy dose of

surprise and pride. We will also look at some of the exciting opportunities coming up.

Our speaker will be Diana Gisoni from Guardian Ad Litem. These folks serve as advocates for the best interests of minor or incapacitated children during legal proceedings.

Welcome to Our New Member

A warm welcome to our new member, Kathy Dent, from the Village of Chitty Chatty. Kathy is also a very active, high-energy member of the Brain Health Group.

Our New Board

President - Lindsay Collier – Tall Trees

Vice President - Kathy Cohen – Santiago

Secretary - Peggy Cunningham – Citrus Grove

Treasurer - Barbara Bickley – Tall Trees

Membership Chair- Carol Zagrosh – Pine Ridge

Outreach Coordinator - Jen Smith – Santo Domingo

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)

On Wednesday, January 15th we will have several of our members participate in assembling food packs to be used to feed starving children around the world. This will take place at the Live Oak Community Church at 1270 CR 103 in Oxford (behind Walmart) from 12-2. This is our 2nd year doing this and those who participated last year raved about it.

We have 22 people from our club signed up along with 15 from Abundance of Love. Thanks so much to all of you! Attached are a few instructions about the event.



This year we also added a "Change a Life with Your Change" activity where we gave out tubes of M&M's to fill with quarters.

Those who received these can bring them to the meeting. This will result in us contributing several hundred dollars to FMSC.

Giving Clubs Showcase

Our club sponsors two of these showcases each year, one in the north at Lake Miona in February and one in the south at Ezell in October. These showcases give clubs and organizations in The Villages and surrounding area a chance to show how they spread kindness in our community. Our next one is on Saturday, February 1st at Lake Miona Recreation Center. We should have close to 60 clubs for this event! Save the date and tell your friends and neighbors about it.

We like to have 2 members each hour and will have a sign-up sheet at our meeting. This is a great way to meet some very nice people and spread the word about our club.



Acknowledging Acts of Kindness (AAOK) Events

The goal for 2025 is to get back on track with our monthly acknowledgments. We have several candidates in line and one scheduled on January 14th. This is a great way to be involved in a club activity which is quick and fun. And, if you know of someone who we should honor just contact me or our new Event Coordinator, Cathi Coy, at cathy@coy.com and we will make sure it happens.

Educational Focus Group

One of the most exciting things we have going on now is our Educational Focus group led by Pearl Seavitte. She will update us on the activities of this group at our meeting. This is such a great part of realizing our mission of creating a culture of kindness. Is there a better place to start than working with our school children and helping them lead a life of kindness? Consider the possibilities!

December Events

December was a busy month. After buying Christmas gifts for 29 children from 19 families, several of us attended the Gateway to Hope/Project SOS Christmas party in Ocala. It was truly a pleasure seeing these families and the smiles on the faces of their children. And a round of applause please for those who bought these gifts.





We also had a few of our members attend the Wreatha Across America event at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. Pat and Mike Webb and Cathi Coi and her husband and son found this a very moving experience.



And of course, we had our annual marching in the Christmas parade where we had 8 decorated golf carts and about 15 walkers that handed out about 500 candy canes.

Areas Where We Need Your Help.

We could use your help in several areas. I know many of you are busy, but we could really use some help in these areas. None of them will take a lot of your time.

- Social Director – Help organize events involving food and social activities. You won't be alone – a lot of us will help you out.
- Website Manager – Update our website (AAOKClub.org) from time to time. Not a lot of time will be required. Minimal experience needed – we will train.
- Newsletter Editor – I've been doing this for 6 years. Time for someone else to take over.
- Fundraiser manager. Carry out a few tasks to arrange for the once-a-year event. You'll have lots of help.

Let me know if you are interested or would like to know more about a position. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

If any of these possibilities sound good to you or if you would like more detailed information, contact me at lindsaycollier@comcast.net.

Club Sites to Visit

- **Our club's website**
- [Our Facebook page](#)
- **Our Facebook group**
- **Custom Apparel** (go to businesses/groups A-L for our catalogue of shirts and other AAOK stuff)

See you on January 9th

Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!

Lindsay Collier, President, lindsaycollier@comcast.net.

"Kindness is loaning someone your strength instead of reminding them of their weakness"