



Thank you for your kindness.

Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter – July/August 2025

*“Kindness is loaning someone your strength instead of
reminding them of their weakness.”*

I hope you are all having a pleasant summer and staying cool. As you know, we don't meet in July and August. This brief mid-summer newsletter shares a few updates.

Acknowledging Acts of Kindness (AAOK) Events

Our VP and Candidate Selection and Event Coordination Leader, Cathi Coy, has put together a list of upcoming AAOK's through October so there will be lots of opportunities to join us in these events. These are fun and consume very little of your time (a normal AAOK takes about 15 minutes). We promise you will leave feeling good all over. Contact Cathi if you would like to be involved or if you have someone you'd like to nominate for their amazing kindness. Cathi can be reached at cathi@coy.org.

On June 21st we honored Gordon Hamm with the Stanton-Weirsdale Elementary School. For over 12 years Gordon has worked tirelessly for Stanton-Weirsdale Elementary School! He organizes volunteers for the classrooms, helps collect needs like books (over 6,000), boxes of cereal, shoes, logo'd school t-shirts, Christmas gifts, and more. He has personally donated over \$30,000! He also sells T-shirts for Red Shirt Fridays in support of the Marine Corps League. And he still makes time weekly to go pick up a friend from assisted living and take him out to lunch! There is no person more deserving of recognition than Gordon!



On June 25th we honored Mary Inwood with VHA Helping Hands. Thank you to Bonnie Mulinex and Barbara Bickley for filling in for all of us were out of town. Mary is responsible for 50+ Helping Hands volunteers and 5 daily phone operators. She works this position like it's a full-time job, keeping everyone organized and efficient in the office as well as with the transportation of medical items.



Fred Funk Butterfly Garden

An exciting event in July is the Butterfly Fest on Wednesday, July 23rd 10am and 2pm at the Fred Funk Butterfly Garden at 231 Lake Griffin Road in Lady Lake behind the Seventh Day Adventist Church. This is a chance to see the Backwoods Garden in Area 5 which our club recently adopted. There will be a plant sale, a silent auction on some great gifts, and lots of activities. And the award winning garden is something to behold! The gardens are gorgeous and the amount of butterflies are amazing! And all of this is free.

Also, our AOK Club will have a table set up in the church to showcase what we are all about.



Educational Focus Group

This Focus Group led by Pearl Seavitte has made some great progress in bringing our message of kindness to our local schools. Peggy Cunningham and Jeri Fraser have had some great success at the Webster Elementary School with the "Bee Kind Program". Come to the September meeting to learn more about some of the wonderful things they are doing.



Giving Clubs Showcase

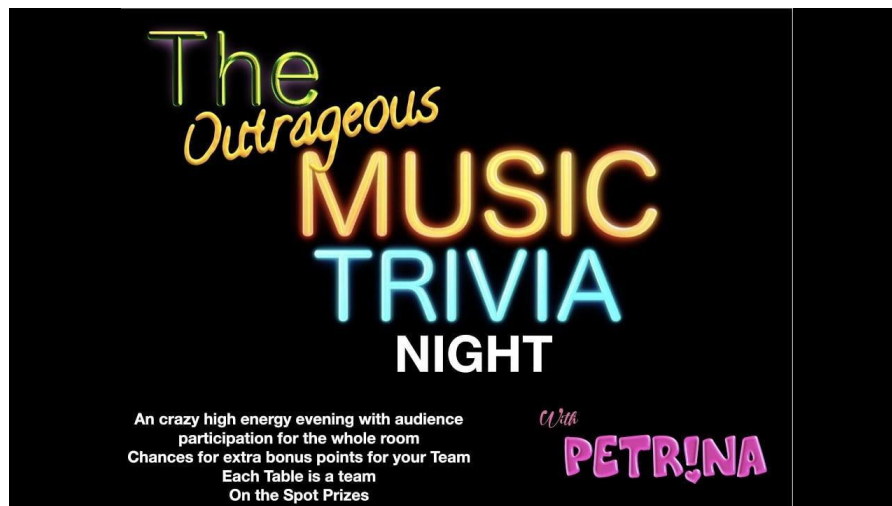
It seems like a long way away but save the date on your calendar for our bi-annual Giving Clubs Showcase. It will be on Saturday, October 25th from 10-2 at Everglades Recreation Center. We plan on having over 50 clubs and groups, some that are new for us. We normally have 2 members at the table each hour so let me know if you would like to be involved.



Fundraiser

Here's another date to save. We have a very exciting fundraiser coming up in November with Petrina and her **Outrageous Music Trivia Night**. For those who have never seen Petrina perform, you will be in for a real treat. The date is Saturday, November 8th at 6:00 pm at the Colony Recreation Center. Our fundraiser will help us carry out our events, and also to contribute to other groups we support such as Project SOS, Honor Flight, and more.

We could really use a few volunteers to help us with this. Please let me know if you can help.



Our 2024-2025 Highlights

This was in our June newsletter, but I am adding it here because it is something that should make you all proud. We've had an amazing year. Here is a summary of some of the things we have done:

- Orchestrated 2 Giving Clubs Showcases
- Participated in Flags for Fallen Vets and Wreaths Across America
- Took part in Feed My Starving Children
- Marched in the Christmas and St Pat's Day parades
- Bought Christmas gifts for 19 families of Veterans living in the forest
- Attended the Christmas party for Gateway to Hope/Project SOS for Veterans
- Donated to Honor Flight and Project SOS
- Donated socks for the 'DeFeet the Cold' project
- Donated shoes for "Follow the Need" to women of Nepal to start businesses
- Helped in the Wildwood Soup Kitchen
- Acknowledged a record number of incredibly kind people
- And more!

Club Sites to Visit

- [Our Club Website](#)
- [Our Facebook page](#)
- [Our Facebook group](#)
- [Custom Apparel](#)

See you on September 11th

Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!

Lindsay Collier, President, lindsaycollier@comcast.net.