



OUR THIRD YEAR – 2018

JANUARY: We began our third year with our January planning meeting. Our primary objective was to select the organization or community need for our focus, this year. Our decision came unanimously and with great joy. We would help the amazing teachers in our community with supplies and special needs that they should not have to pay for out of their own pocketbooks! We began the planning process by determining what the teachers and classrooms needed.

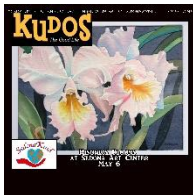


FEBRUARY: We continued our teacher appreciation goals. Our Kindness in Schools (KIS) Committee provided special Valentines and gift cards to all the teachers in the classrooms we visit. We also gave a surprise Valentine to every child, AFTER they had made one for a friend. We also made gift bags for every Meals on Wheels volunteer driver at the Sedona Community Center.

MARCH: Much time was spent finalizing plans for our April Earth Day Operation Special Delivery. This year, we decided to create and plant 50 beautiful container gardens to be delivered to local unsung heroes in our community. We worked with Master Gardener Kim Corey. She really made it possible.



APRIL: In addition to our Operation Special Delivery project, much of February,



March and April was spent working hard on final plans for our May fundraiser, the Art Show, "Kindness Blooms." This event was in the works since last winter. It grew from what we thought would be a small generous donation of artwork, to a gorgeous, huge event with over 125 paintings and sketches for sale, and a fabulous silent auction. We collaborated with the Sedona Arts Center, and their help and their gallery made it all possible. The two deceased artists, who supplied the artworks, loved to support children and veterans. So much of the proceeds from the show are dedicated to these two groups. Members of our Community Outreach group were invited to speak at a PEO meeting, and were warmly welcomed.

MAY: In addition to our "Kindness Blooms" Art Show, we created gift bags for every teacher at West Sedona School and Big Park School. They contained a special handmade card, KIND bars, a kindness charm, and two gift cards. The gifts were to be in honor of Teacher Appreciation Day, but because of the impending strike, we delivered them the day before the walk out. Every teacher had tears in their eyes, and so did we.

SPRING: Throughout the Spring months, another SedonaKind idea blossomed into a reality, the Kindness Benches. These pieces of art were to be placed in public places around our community. An amazing committee was formed, and two SedonaKind members and extraordinary artists, Lucy Paradise and Lenore Hemingway, have guided our way to make this dream come true. We also began planning for our third Sedona Kindness Day and Kindness Week events. Again, we secured approval from the City of Sedona to proclaim November 13th Sedona Kindness day. We will again be partnering with the Sedona Film Festival for a Kindness Day film and fundraiser for future projects for our teachers. We also began planning for the return of our wonderful Gratitude Trees, which will go up during Kindness Week.



SUMMER: Our meetings ended in May, but the kindness ideas and projects continued. Our charmers met once a month to keep creating our signature kindness charms. We were invited to participate in the Veteran's Day Program at the Heritage Museum. Members began collecting items for our second Blessing Bags project for homeless Veterans to be delivered during Kindness Week. The Kindness in Schools Committee joined with Sedona Women, a very generous PEO group and community members to collect enough school supplies for 5 schools! What a thrill! This Committee also met all summer, creating additional teams, adding to our Kindness Library, creating new activities to accompany the books, and working with the new administration to prepare for bringing kindness lessons to grades K-3, when school began. Plans were made to create a new event to wrap up Kindness Week in collaboration with the Sedona Public Library and Sedona Rotary. The Kindness Benches team worked hard for sponsors.



SEPTEMBER: New and old members gathered for this first meeting since our summer break. Our knitters have been busy all summer, as we plan to give hats to Veterans and school children again. Lucy and Joy gave an update on our Kindness Benches. All 16 had been sold! Northern Arizona HealthCare will be having a bench, and is considering our proposal of a Kindness Wall, with the inscription, "Kindness Heals." Keep your fingers crossed. We had obtained almost all the components for our Blessing Bags with assembly planned for the October meeting. The Kindness in Schools committee reported that our school supply drive was a huge success, supported by the Wish List and the Sedona Women. We have been asked to be the February program at the Sedona Women Valentine meeting to present the philosophy and science of kindness. Planning for Kindness Week began in earnest.

OCTOBER: Our Kindness in Schools committee continued to meet and plan. It was again decided to pass out the wonderful knitted hats to the primary grades. This year, we will give special hats and scarves to the teachers, as well. In December, in time for the holidays, we'll give the teachers gift bags including \$50 in cash, Kind Bars and a special card. KIS members helped get the Thunder Mountain School Library ready to open, and donated many items and volunteer hours to the PTA Carnival. The Kindness Bench project was right on schedule with 16 benches to be designed and built by November. The City is 100% behind our project, and is helping to find appropriate sites. As the word spread, it seemed this project had taken over everyone's hearts. We received a donation of kindness pendants, which we're calling "kindness tokens," from Micki Baumann/Deva Designs. Each pendant is a heart with a kindness quote on the back. We're thrilled to be able to hand them out during Kindness Week. At the end of the meeting, members filled the 50 Blessing Bags we are delivering to the homeless Veterans. This year, the bags included personal toiletry items, warm gloves, socks, hats, and a food gift card.





NOVEMBER: Most of the Kindness in Schools Committee have cleared new security requirements, and the first teams went into the classrooms on November 9th. The Blessing Bags were delivered and received with many thanks. Several SedonaKind members participated in the Veterans Day Celebration at the Heritage Museum, and handed out specially made red, white and blue kindness charms to all the Veterans. To begin Kindness week, the Kindness Benches went into “production” on November 5th at Carol Gandolfo’s studio.

Lucy and Lenore guided SedonaKind members as they designed and helped build the benches. They are fabulous, beyond belief. With the help of the City, Sir Moves a Lot, and other strong backs, all were in place by mid-November. Several ideas are being developed to create possible walking or trolley tours of all the benches, or even a scavenger hunt. Stay tuned for more on that. This project has had fairy dust all over it, and with an enormous amount of work and an equal amount of magic, our 16 Kindness Benches will remain in place all over Sedona long after we are gone. Kindness Week continued with the showing of the film, LIYANA, at the Mary Fisher Theater, and we are again grateful to be partnering with the Sedona Film Festival and the wonderful Pat Schweiss. Two showings and an anonymous matching donor raised more funds for our special teacher projects, this year. The Gratitude Trees went up all over town, with more locations requesting to have one. They will stay up through the Holidays. And SedonaKind partnered with the Rotary Club of Sedona and the Sedona Library to end Kindness Week with a Community Kindness Conversation program at the Library entitled, “Kindness-Hiding in Plain Sight.” It was a perfect way to spend the Saturday before Thanksgiving.



DECEMBER: All the teams of the Kindness in Schools committee will go into the classrooms this month. At the last day of school, the hats will be distributed to the children at Thunder Mountain School. There will be no general meeting this month, but members were charged with thinking of projects and plans to talk about at our big January planning meeting.

These years have been busier, fuller and more gratifying than we could have possibly imagined when we first met 3 years ago, November 2016. So happy anniversary to us! And to every SedonaKind member, thank you for your hearts, inspirations, hard work and joyful participation in this amazing journey. Let’s see where it takes us in 2019!