



## Welcome to The Villages Special Needs Community!

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact:

Robert Hamblin [rhamblin@bellsouth.net](mailto:rhamblin@bellsouth.net)

### **AACID Group**

Advocates for Adult Children with Intellectual Disabilities. This group led by John Langan for parents and caregivers is to provide information for Social Security, Medicaid and additional disability benefits in the State of Florida as well as other great information. Group Homes, ABLE Savings Accounts and Vocational Opportunities are also covered. The group meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at the Lake Miona Recreation Center from 6 PM to 8 PM in the Defender Room. For more information, please contact:

John Langan [jtklangan@aol.com](mailto:jtklangan@aol.com) Phone: 610 563-4819

### **AFINS Advancing Families & Individuals Needing Services**

AFINS is a grass roots movement in Central Florida bringing support, education, and advocacy to families and individuals who are navigating through social agencies and their services. It is a fellowship to empower people with legislative education and action and to help connect Individuals with disabilities to the social programs available to them in the area. We take action 1) by contacting elected officials to share our concerns to help shape legislative budgets and actions, 2) by sending families important information about helpful resources, and 3) by using our experience to walk consumers and their caregivers through the applications that get them enrolled with key agencies. Our motto is No one needs to do this alone! **AFINS holds workshops the second FRIDAY every month at the Sumter County Clerk of Court Villages Annex.**

Debbie Beaucaire, Debbie Jenkins and Kevin Jenkins [Afins.avp@gmail.com](mailto:Afins.avp@gmail.com) Website <https://afins.group/>

### **Aktion Club**

Aktion Club is a club for adults that want to make a difference in our community. We take turns managing projects and our club so we can learn how to lead as we serve others. We work together to decide what projects we want to do and how we want to do them. Helping others ends up helping us too. Best of all, we make friends who care as much as we do to create a better community. Everyone is welcome. We hope you will visit a club meeting to check out what we do. We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 10 AM at the Lady Lake Community Center.

Lady Lake Aktion Club Ann Hensley [Ahensley00@gmail.com](mailto:Ahensley00@gmail.com) Phone: 352 633-6177

Here is the link for the local chapter's Facebook page or you can search by name for *Aktion Club of Lady Lake Kiwanis*: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067657383994>

## **Best Buddies The Villages**

Supports the development of friendships between adults with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in communities. Many people with IDD have limited opportunities for social interactions after they leave the school environment. This program helps people with IDD become part of mainstream society and creates an inclusive and diverse community for all. Buddies (with IDD) are matched with Peer Buddies. Our local Chapter hosts monthly Best Buddies fun socials the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Manatee Recreation Center at 5:30 pm. For more information: [bestbuddiesthevillages@gmail.com](mailto:bestbuddiesthevillages@gmail.com) or to become a member click this link: <https://forms.bestbuddies.org/4903689?ChapterAcctID=0014P00003eT46G>

Our Best Buddies Chapter also has a Facebook group. You must reside in The Villages and be a Best Buddies Citizens Chapter member to join. Sign in to your Facebook account, click on the link below, and request to *Join* if you are interested.

**Please make sure to answer all the questions to join this page.** Search for the group name, “Best Buddies The Villages, FL” <https://www.facebook.com/groups/752094776060344>

## **Celebrate Differences**

Celebrate Differences is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities. We offer a range of programs, including ***Moms Helping Moms, Dads Helping Dads, and M.O.R.E.***—a life skills program designed to foster independence and confidence. Our year-round events provide opportunities for fun, connection, and support. We also partner with other organizations to expand our reach and further support the disability community. To learn more, contact Rebecca Christiansen at <mailto:info@celebratedifferences.org> or (630) 885-3006.

Visit our website at <http://www.celebratedifferences.org> to explore our programs and download our electronic calendar for event updates for Celebrate Differences as well as other groups!

## **Community Bible Study**

The Villages Community Bible Study is pleased to include as members adults with intellectual disabilities. This special arm of the ministry is called *Agape*. The *Agape* curriculum engages the hearts and minds of participants with real life application. The goal is to allow each individual to participate at his or her level of understanding to experience a transformed heart through God's Word. This in-depth 30 week Bible Study for adults with intellectual disabilities promotes transformation of hearts through God's Word while participating in personal study, group discussion and fellowship. The group meets at New Covenant UMC on Mondays from 3 pm – 5 pm. Please join us! [www.communitybiblestudy.org/agape](http://www.communitybiblestudy.org/agape)

Contact: Tammy Gierse [tamara.gierse@gmail.com](mailto:tamara.gierse@gmail.com) 314-750-2016 or Bill Eggert [wmceggert@msn.com](mailto:wmceggert@msn.com) 952-212-1041

## **Dancing Friends**

This group sponsors quarterly dances for Villages Special Needs residents at the Colony Recreation Center. Please contact **Joan Federico** at [iteachsped@juno.com](mailto:iteachsped@juno.com) or **631 767-4878**.

## **Day Break Club Of The Villages**

The Day-Break Club of the Villages is where caregivers get a break while loved ones are entertained and have fun! We support adult residents of The Villages with special needs and their caregiver ensuring they have equal opportunities to participate in supervised recreational activities and live The Villages Lifestyle. The club meets on Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 4 PM at the Odell Recreation Center.

If interested, please contact Sandra Ricciardi, President at **203 376-2820** [ltricciardi@me.com](mailto:ltricciardi@me.com)  
[www.day-break-club.com](http://www.day-break-club.com)

4/3/2025

## **KEVADVOTECH**

**Kevadvotech** advocates for special needs by bringing inspiring people and stories to light through articles and video podcasts. You'll learn about the many activities and clubs that are currently available here within The Villages and surrounding community.

You can find the content here > <https://keadvotech.com/category/the-villages-community/>

## **MOM2MOM Group**

Mom2Mom is open to any woman who is caring for a disabled or special needs adult. We launched in January 2020 and gather monthly for breakfast or lunch in The Villages area.

You do not have to be a resident of The Villages to join us, and there are no dues or membership fees.

Our goal is to support and encourage each other and share practical information regarding government benefits, state agencies, special needs trusts, housing and more. Whatever one of us is going through, another has already been there. We're all in this together!

*Please email:* Peg O'Malley at [Lonestarkicker@gmail.com](mailto:Lonestarkicker@gmail.com) Jean Gallagher at [wildwoodgal@gmail.com](mailto:wildwoodgal@gmail.com)

## **Persevering Art and Games Society (PAGS) in The Villages**

David Harriott started this new social club for adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDDs).

The group will use both art and games to have fun, teach each participant to learn and heal. We meet at Ezell Recreation Center every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 5 PM to 7 PM. You must reside in The Villages to attend.

The group is on Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/groups/77628036555993/?ref=share&mibextid=jf9HGS>

Contact **David Harriott 614 893-3852** or [pags.thevillages@gmail.com](mailto:pags.thevillages@gmail.com)

## **PinPals Bowling**

This is a new bowling group for the south areas of The Villages Special Needs Community! You do not have to live in the Villages to attend. We meet every other Saturday at the AMF Leesburg Lanes 2813 W Main Street (SR44) Leesburg 34748. We start at 12 noon and bowl two games for \$7. If you would like to join us, please email us at [Pinpalsvillages@gmail.com](mailto:Pinpalsvillages@gmail.com)

## **S.A.I.D. Club**

The Socialization for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities Club meets 10:30 AM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month at the Fruitland Park Library. Enjoy a time to socialize with adult peers playing games, making crafts or just talking. This is an event that will have developmental support of socialization.

The library is located at **604 W Berckman Street, Fruitland Park 34731 Phone 352 360-6561**

## **Special Friends Bowling**

There are two teams who bowl every other week at the Spanish Springs Bowling Lanes. Here is the link to contact them to see if they are accepting new bowlers, if not, request to be put on their waitlist and check out their website: <https://specialfriendsbowling.org/contact-us/>

## **Special Olympics**

Sumter and Citrus Counties Special Olympics: Throughout the year, they hold Basketball, Pickleball, Tennis, Swimming, Cornhole, Bowling, Golf, Soccer, and Equestrian with average 10 week programs. For more information, please call **Lenard Kemp 863 397-9775** <https://www.specialolympicsflorida.org/westcoast>

### **Spiritual Friendship Club**

This is a Bible based, non-denominational group sponsored and held at St. Vincent DePaul Family Life Center at 5323 E County Road 462, Wildwood, FL. They meet to discuss Biblical topics, do a craft, have a snack, and time to share. This group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 2 pm at the church. For more information, please call **Mariagnes Moran 352 212-6048**.

### **STAR (Special Talents Aerobics w/Reeves)**

*We have just added a second STAR Water Aerobics class on Tuesdays, 12 Noon at Ezell Recreation Center pool!* The STAR Water Aerobics class is held every Tuesday, 12 Noon AND Thursday, 9 AM at the Ezell Recreation Center Sports Pool. The instructor is Susann Reeves. For more information, please contact **Susann Reeves 561 324-6602** or [Susier826@yahoo.com](mailto:Susier826@yahoo.com). Her Facebook page is **"Special Talents Aquatics w/Reeves"**.

### **The Left Center Right Social Club**

The Left Center Right Social Club for Special Guys and Gals offers a social evening where adult residents of The Villages can play the Left Center Right game with their peers. In our commitment to model the club after any adult social evening of games with friends, we keep a simple format of playing for its own enjoyment with people of like interests.

The Club is held on the second and fourth Monday of each month between 6:00 and 7:45. Participants must bring their Villagers ID and their own drinks each time. We supply snacks.

In order for new members to join the club, each person must first contact **Debbie Beaucaire by text (508-243-5568) or email (sdbeauc@gmail.com)** so we can guarantee enough space and LCR games for all the participants. Should the club membership be at capacity for the room, new contacts will be put on a waiting list.

### **The S.T.A.R. Program**

The Villages Recreation & Parks is providing The S.T.A.R. (Special Talented Adult Resident) Program designed for special needs adults living with their parents. This program includes Sports, Crafts, Music, Outdoor Activities and More! Activities will be offered on a weekly basis at a Recreation Center near you! Check **Thursday's Daily Sun Recreation Insert** for more information.

Register at: <https://www.districtgov.org/programs/star/>

### **YADA (Young Adults with Differing Abilities) and YADA+ (their parents)**

YADA exists to help support high-functioning, mostly-independent young adult children (18-40) interact with each other through weekly social events and to develop friendships to fulfill their need for healthy social interaction. YADA+ are a dedicated group of parents who come together to plan, drive, host parties and otherwise help to implement the social events. This group is for Village Residents only. Please contact Kim Pinto at [KimPinto01@gmail.com](mailto:KimPinto01@gmail.com) or 757-344-8682, Christina Allman at [ChristinaAllman@bellsouth.net](mailto:ChristinaAllman@bellsouth.net) or 954-614-1494, or Tammy Versluis at [TammyVersluis@yahoo.com](mailto:TammyVersluis@yahoo.com) or 616-502-2010. Or ask to join our Facebook page at **Parents in The Villages of Young Adults with Differing Abilities**