



Certified City of Kindness

One Kind Act a Day

Introduction

One Kind Act a Day is committed to building communities grounded in compassion, inclusion, and connection. We invite your city to join this growing movement by working toward official recognition as a Certified City of Kindness.

This certification honors cities that demonstrate leadership in kindness, foster civic engagement, and inspire a culture of respect and empathy. Communities that achieve certification will be recognized publicly and celebrated as shining examples of how kindness strengthens social bonds and improves quality of life.

Upon completion, One Kind Act a Day will coordinate with your team to schedule a formal presentation ceremony, featuring city leaders, community members, and local media.

Certification Requirements

To be eligible for recognition as a Certified City of Kindness, each city must complete **all** Required items and at least **six (6)** Optional Initiatives.

Required

- ❑ **City Resolution:** Adopt a formal city resolution supporting One Kind Act a Day as a community partner and affirming the city's commitment to fostering kindness.
- ❑ **Liaison Appointment:** Designate a city representative to serve as a liaison between the city and One Kind Act a Day to coordinate activities and reporting.
- ❑ **Employee Participation:** At least 50% of city employees must participate in both the pre- and post-kindness surveys provided by One Kind Act a Day, and at least 50% must sign the Kindness Pledge.
- ❑ **Consistency:** The city needs to demonstrate a consistent pattern of kindness over time, rather than isolated acts of kindness. The Certification process must be a **yearlong initiative**.

Optional Initiatives (Please complete a minimum of six.) No more than 2 per category!

Community Engagement

- Organize city-wide kindness challenges and recognize participants publicly.
- Partner with local nonprofits to host volunteer opportunities and promote service.
- Select a local charity to benefit from kindness-driven initiatives.
- Encourage local businesses to participate in kindness campaigns or events.
- City hosts or supports at least two kindness-centered community events annually (Kindness Day, Unity Walk, service projects, art installations, etc.)
- The city recognizes local kindness leaders or groups at a council meeting or community celebration.
- Encourage citizens to host a block party with a grant from OKAAD.
- Engage police department in handing out “Kindness Citations”.

Youth Involvement

- Involve youth in kindness activities or establish a Kindness Ambassadors program.
- Host essay or video competitions where students highlight acts of kindness in their communities.
- Display kindness-themed student art in City Hall or other public spaces.
- The city partners with local schools or youth organizations to promote kindness (assemblies, classroom projects, student kindness clubs).
- Conduct a sign blitz with OKAAD yard signs placed in neighborhood yards.

Business & Organizations

- The city engages at least **five** local businesses or organizations to sign the Pledge of Kindness.
- Businesses are encouraged to lead their own kindness actions (customer appreciation efforts, employee kindness challenges).
- The city publicly celebrates and promotes these partners through social media and community channels.

Visibility and Celebration

- ❑ Display kindness-themed banners, murals, or signage in public areas.
- ❑ Add the One Kind Act a Day logo and link to the city's official website.
- ❑ Create a Service and Kindness Committee (youth and/or adults) to sustain ongoing efforts.
- ❑ Challenge another city to begin the kindness certification process.
- ❑ Cobrand signs, feather flags, bumper stickers, etc.

Other

- ❑ Design a kindness initiative that reflects its unique community values and needs. All proposed initiatives must be reviewed and approved by OKAAD prior to implementation.

Documentation and Review

Cities are encouraged to document their progress through photos, reports, and media coverage. Upon completion, submit a brief summary report outlining:

- Actions completed under required and optional categories
- Measurable outcomes or highlights
- Community feedback or stories that exemplify the city's kindness culture

Recognition and Award

Certified Cities of Kindness will receive:

- A framed award presented at a formal ceremony
- Recognition on the One Kind Act a Day website and social media
- Access to future collaboration opportunities and ongoing kindness initiatives

Closing

The Certified City of Kindness designation reflects more than a program; it represents a shared belief that kindness can shape the heart of a community. Through consistent effort and genuine care, your city can help lead a growing movement dedicated to connection, respect, and hope.

Together, we can make kindness not just an act, but a way of life.