

**PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

**Subject:** Recognition Group Application from Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness

**Background:** On May 15, 2019, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board discussed the application from Mr. Goldberg- Strassler, Founder of Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK) for initial certification as a City of Greenbelt Recognition Group. Staff Liaison Greg Varda, Acting Recreation Director of Programs, stated that he assisted RUAK with their event in March, The HUG Walk. The Recreation Department believes that RUAK will be a valuable organization that meets the City of Greenbelt's Community Pledge.

**Recommendations:** PRAB members voted unanimously to support this application for Recognition Group status under Basic Certification in FY 2020.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Jake Chesnutt, Chair  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**



*cc: Council, Nicole*

CITY OF GREENBELT  
**RECOGNITION GROUP APPLICATION –  
BASIC CERTIFICATION (FOR IN-KIND SERVICES ONLY)**

First-time applications are accepted at any time.  
Applications for renewal of Recognition Group status for the city's fiscal year 2020 are due  
by **4:30pm on Friday, January 25, 2019**

**For technical assistance with this online application:**  
contact the Public Information Coordinator at 240-542-2026 or [bpalau@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bpalau@greenbeltmd.gov)

**For other assistance:**  
contact the Recreation Department's Administrative Coordinator  
at 301-397-2200 or [cpracht@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:cpracht@greenbeltmd.gov)

**BEFORE COMPLETING THIS APPLICATION:**

Please read the Policy and Information Guide for Recognition Groups. This guide contains important information about the different levels of in-kind and financial support available to community organizations that serve Greenbelt residents. The Guide also provides an overview of several different applications corresponding with these levels of support. Before completing this form, make sure you have selected the application that is the best match with your needs and qualifications.

RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness)

1. Name of organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of founding: 2018 Website: Pending

Please check one:  new application  application for renewal of status

2. Contact person: Name Robert Goldberg-Strassler Position Founder

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

3. Organization's mailing address (not a City of Greenbelt facility):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the mission of this organization? Whom do you intend to serve?  
See Attachment  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Description of your group's activities: Please list here or upload a schedule of past and upcoming activities sponsored by the group during the current fiscal year (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019). Indicate which activities took place in Greenbelt.  
See Attachment  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. How many people do you anticipate will have actively participated in your organization's primary, sponsored activities this year? Include estimates as needed. *Sports programs: include registered players only. Performing arts programs: include performers/production teams only. Festivals: include featured artists/performers and individuals or organizations with a booth, table, activity or parade unit. Please do not include volunteers or staff.*

Total number of active participants: 60 % Greenbelt residents 95  
 % ages 12 and under 5 % 13-17 yrs. 10 % 18-59 yrs. 60 % 60+ yrs. 25

7. How many additional people do you anticipate will have participated in your organization's primary, sponsored activities as audience members, spectators and attendees (if applicable)? *This does not include volunteers or staff.*

Total number of spectators: 75 % Greenbelt residents 95 % ages 12 and under 5 % 13-17 yrs. 10 % 18-59 yrs. 50 % 60+ yrs. 35

8. How many people do you anticipate will have volunteered this year to help run your organization and implement your sponsored activities?

Total number of supporting volunteers: 50 % Greenbelt residents 95  
 % ages 12 and under 0 % 13-17 yrs. 10 % 18-59 yrs. 50 % 60+ yrs. 40

9. **Request for support.** Please describe the in-kind services which you anticipate requesting from the City of Greenbelt during the coming fiscal year. *Note: Recognition Group certification does not imply that all requests can be granted. Requests from the organization will be addressed on a case by case basis as they arise in accordance with applicable city policies and procedures.* periodic meeting rooms; publicity for events

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**10. Electronic Signature**

I, the undersigned, certify that the information contained in this application is true, complete, and accurate. I have been authorized to submit this application to the City of Greenbelt by the governing body of the applicant organization. By signing this application, I certify that the organization's leaders have read the City of Greenbelt's Policy and Information Guide for Recognition Groups and have agreed to abide by the requirements stated therein.

Signature Robert Goldberg-Strassler Date 1/3/19

Role within the organization Executive Director

4. RUAK's mission: to bridge the gaps between people; to encourage inclusivity and bonding possibilities; to cultivate relationships and understanding each other, and; to take a risk and commit to creating new kindness rituals in the City of Greenbelt.

5. 2018:

- announced the creation and mission of RUAK before Greenbelt's City Council, Greenbelt Farmer's Market, the Community Relations Advisory Board, at Greenbelt's National Night Out and the Kindness in Action in the Greenbelt News Review;
- distributed RUAK Kindness Bags which have circulated around Greenbelt (and beyond-including Maine, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania);
- initiated the BE PAWSITIVE efforts (picking up orphan poop and recycling plastic water containers) at Greenbelt's dog park which has grown in numbers
- participated in the Cookies on the Bridge program (added the healthful choice of carrots);
- on September 11, 2018, underwrote the movie, "Man in Red Bandana", at the Old Greenbelt Theatre and distributed "HELP OTHERS" red bandanas to the attendants;
- submitted an application for the James Cassells Community Service Award;
- began the planning of the H.U.G. (Help Unite Greenbelt) Walk; met with members of the Center for Dynamic Council, Greenbelt Un-Plugged, Greenbelt Interfaith Alliance, Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society, and number of other Greenbelters and Greenbelt civic and social groups as well as reaching out to the local schools for participation and consideration as a school fund raiser.

Looking Forward to 2019

- kicking off the Greenbelt Kindness Mail System in January
- receiving a state and city proclamation of Random Acts of Kindness Day (February)
- becoming a Recognition Group in Greenbelt
- distributing 50 more kindness bags
- taking RUAK to the streets by cleaning every street (around Greenbelt in 80 days) (April)
- exploring/designing a web site

- supporting the Empty Bowls project by providing nourishment on Greenbelt Pottery Group's bowl making weekends (January/February)
- continuing to plan for the H.U.G. (Help Unite Greenbelt) Walk on March 31, 2019 and community-wide potluck
- underwriting the presentation at the Old Greenbelt Theatre of "Man in Red Bandana" again (September)
- developing a plan incorporating Greenbelt's business community
- amping up the awareness of RUAK through the many media outlets
- continuing and tweaking the ongoing program