

Abundance Of Love



Our Mission

We are a Central Florida volunteer organization whose members knit, crochet, loom and sew. We create items of comfort with love to distribute locally wherever there is a need.

NEWSLETTER - MAY 2024



Jen's Corner



In May, we remember and honor those who lost their lives while defending their country on **Memorial Day**. And we wish **Happy Mother's Day** to all mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, and "mother stand-ins."

On June 8, 2024, we will celebrate **World Wide Knit in Public Day**, held annually on the second Saturday of June. The objective of this day is to showcase knitting as an enjoyable activity for all ages, not just doting grandparents looking to make a sweater for their grandchildren. The day brings with it a sense of community for knitters who often celebrate together by knitting in public spaces to make their hobby more visible and accessible to the public. This special day was founded in 2005 by Danielle Landes and remains the world's largest knitting event.

Abundance Of Love members as well as many other crafting groups will be invited to gather to knit, loom, and crochet. The outdoor location is to be determined, awaiting confirmation of a reserved pavilion. Details will be announced at upcoming meetings. Please begin to spread the word to other groups. It will bring awareness that crafting is still around and flourishing!

Many blessings,
 Jen Smith, Founder and Outreach Coordinator

AOL Calendar

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	2	3 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am Spruce Creek South Mtg 9:30am
5	6 Everglades Mtg 10:30am	7	8 Fruitland Park Comm. Ctr Mtg 2:00pm	9	10 Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am
12	13	14	15	16	17 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am Spruce Creek South Mtg 9:30am
19	20 Everglades Mtg 10:30am	21	22 Fruitland Park Comm. Ctr Mtg 2:00pm	23	24 Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am
26	27	28	29	30	31 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am

We will meet Friday, May 31, at La Hacienda to wind yarn from large skeins into balls. Bring scissors and a weighing scale (i.e., kitchen, postal) if you have one. Sweet treats and coffee will be provided!

OUR PROJECTS

For many patterns, see our website [tvabundanceoflove](#) **Pattern Links**.

MOST NEEDED

* **Heart stress pillows for hands** - New project, fabric available, pattern on web.

- * **Prayer pockets** - New project, fabric available, pattern on web.
- * **Port pillows** - Kits available
- * **Blankets** - 14x14 preemie

ON HOLD

- * **Soap sacks**

NEEDED AND ONGOING

- * **Baby items** - Lightweight blankets 24 to 26" in pastels, soft yarn. Hat/bootie sets to go with blankets. If you make a blanket, save leftover yarn for someone else to make hat/booties; helpful to include yarn label with blankets.
- * **Blankets** - ALL blanket sizes needed. The smallest is a 14" square. Baby sets (that include blanket, hat, booties) are 24-26" and fit into our packaging. Size ~36" can be in baby colors or bright colors for children. Teen and adult sizes also needed. We now have unlimited skeins of yarns; Pound of Love and one pound skeins are enough for blankets. Many variegated yarns are available too!
- * **Boxes** - Medium-size
- * **Clothing protectors** (adult bibs) - Fabric provided.
- * **Critters** - Any animal; fabric, knit, crochet, up to 6 inches tall. No tags needed.
- * **Hats, scarves, headbands, and mittens (cold weather)** - For teens/adults.
- * **Hats/surgical** - for youth
- * **Hearts of love** - Fabric provided. Turn in sets together, unpinned.
- * **Medical dolls** - Materials provided.
- * **Panels 7 x 9"**
- * **Picc line (IV) covers** - For all ages, baby to adult.
- * **Pillowcases** - For children up to 17 years old. Fabric provided.
- * **Pillows, mastectomy hearts**
- * **Port pillows** - Kits provided.
- * **Prayer squares** - No larger than 4x5". Add tag at meeting.
- * **Scarves** - 4-5" wide, 36-50" long, fringe or no-fringe.
- * **Shawls**

NOT NEEDED

- * **Toddler hats (32-peg loom)**
- * **Bottle caps**

Size chart is available on [tvabundanceoflove Our Needs](#) page.
Our Charities List is linked at the bottom of this email.

AOL DONATIONS - APRIL 2024



Number of items donated: 1,968

To storage: 840 hats, plus 185 other items

Our April bingo fundraiser raised \$1,113, which includes \$103 from sold earrings made by Diane Parette and kindly donated to AOL. Everyone went home with a gift of wine or chocolate!

Web traffic in the last month: 834 hits



Julie Sing, AdventHealth Director, Volunteer Program Management, and Kathy Mackzum, AOL. We met Julie to deliver 500 items on 4/18/24!

A member inquired if our donated projects go home with the patients. Julie Sing said "yes, our patients take the gifts home. We can't reuse them and it's not fair to take their beautiful items away! We so appreciate what you and your group provide. It fills the hearts of our patients, and the staff that hands them out. So special, please share our thanks with your team!"



Ladies in Buffalo Crossing Assisted Living knitting group, who donated 72 hats to our cause.

THIS AND THAT



Big Cypress Meeting Change

Beginning in June, AOL Big Cypress group will meet in the large room next door to the card room we use now. There will be times when the large room is unavailable, one of which is July 26, so we hope to go back to the card room for that day. ALSO, our new meeting time starting in June will be 8:30 to 11:30. We are excited to have more space to spread out!



Project Reminders

- * **Tags** - Tags and ribbon to attach to prayer squares, life blankets, life shawls and patriotic blankets/shawls are available at every meeting. Please attach tags before donating items.
- * **Fabric** - Please do not use upholstery fabric for our current cloth projects--clothing protectors, hearts, etc. The material is too heavy.
- * **Prayer squares** - Should be about 4-5"; you may need to adjust your needle/hook size.

- * **Doll hair** - For crocheted doll hair pieces, please sew in loose ends.
- * **Hearts of love** - Always submit in pairs, two exactly alike. Use soft fabric, like cotton. One side should be light-colored and the other a pretty fabric. Turn in each set together, unpinned. Nurses write a note on the light side. One heart is given to the mom and the other to the baby; then they switch the hearts to exchange their scents.

Click here to view a nice article on the: [Benefits of knitting and crocheting](#)

CRAFT SHOW - SEPTEMBER FUNDRAISER

Our AOL fundraising craft show will be **Monday, Sept. 30**, at Everglades Rec Center. Blank tags will be provided at each meeting to attach to your craft sale items. Do not price them. The last day to turn in items is Friday, August 30, at the La Hacienda meeting. We look forward to your new and interesting crafts as well as small low-priced items.

THANK YOU'S



AdventHealth Foundation

"Thank you so much for your kind donation of medical dolls and youth surgical hats to AdventHealth Waterman. We appreciate the time and work that goes into the handmade goods and are always so excited to see the smiles from those patients who receive them! Your generosity means so much and we are grateful beyond words. Thank you, again!"

The Peyton Heart Project

"It was just so rewarding to see ... members at Abundance Of Love! It really touched my heart. I hope my donation helps in your mission to continue to help so many others. Please keep me informed."

Warmly, Linda Devereux, thepeytonheartproject.org

* **Linda very kindly donated \$1,000 to Abundance Of Love!**

Tampa General Hospital

"To our kind, talented and greatly appreciated artists from Abundance Of Love: Our pediatric patients are always delighted to receive your beautifully crafted items. The dolls are marvelous keepsakes, but also, so helpful to our staff. The parents are very appreciative of the washable books your group creates. I imagine that the surgery hats have been the inspiration for many of our youngsters seeking to grow up to be doctors. We share the excitement of our medical staff when we receive a package from you."

Carol Hanger, TGH Volunteer

Sarasota Memorial Hospital

"Thank you so much for your kindness creating blankets for our little angels. They are absolutely beautiful and bring great comfort to our families...."

SMH NICU, Labor and Delivery

Christian Care Center, Leesburg

"Thank you and all members of Abundance Of Love group for your continued support of the Pregnancy and Family Care Center. You help provide the families we serve with a sense of peace, comfort and safety. We sincerely appreciate all the beautiful blankets and baby items."

Trinity Springs Retirement Community

"I wanted to send a great big thank to your group, our residents get so excited when they receive a special gift. When it is sent with a prayer and hand made it means even more. I get emotional when I pass them out to our residents, it makes them feel special knowing someone is thinking about them, it is pure joy! Please follow our Trinity Springs Facebook page to see your work featured."

Mary Templeton



Vitas Healthcare (hospice volunteers)

Jen Smith, Kathy Morey, and Nancy Still attended a volunteer appreciation event held by Vitas Volunteer Services Manager Robert Bacon. Robert noted "... we gathered and recognized our wonderful volunteers, country western style, with some good food, great company and fun activities (hand painted gifts for our Veteran patients)... We appreciate you, and look forward to continuing to make your volunteer experiences successful."



Jen Smith and Robert Bacon, Vitas

Financials - April 2024

Beginning Balance:	\$3,319.90
Income:	2,525.00
Expenses:	861.95
Ending Balance:	\$4,982.95

A line-by-line detailed financial report is available from your group leader.

Leaders and Contacts

La Hacienda, Founder, Outreach Coordinator - Jen Smith, 352-250-3431, jpsmith5@comcast.net
Big Cypress - Bonnie Mulneix, 724-283-8248, dmulneix@comcast.net
Everglades - Johanna Cole, 352-205-9863, virginia2villages@gmail.com
Fruitland Park Community Center - Kathy Morey, 248-214-4167, kmmonroad@gmail.com
Spruce Creek South - Lee Buckland, 352-239-8264, MLeeBuckland42@gmail.com

Finance - Kathy Morey, 248-214-4167, kmmonroad@gmail.com
Delivery and Pickup - Linda Ryan, 414-333-0776, LRyan8643@gmail.com
Newsletter - Nancy Still, 301-538-3103, NLSfree2paint@yahoo.com

Web Site: tvabundanceoflove.com

Charities We Support

Officially Established September 2022
Founder Jen Smith

“A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION
MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING
TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT,
APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.”
1-800-HELP FLA (1-800-435-7352)

Copyright 2020 Abundance Of Love. All rights reserved.
You can unsubscribe from this list.