

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 2026

Jen's Corner



Ugh, plastic! I consider plastic as a blessing and a curse. Did you know that Ziploc bags were introduced in 1968 by Dow Chemical? While they were not an immediate success, by 1973 they became popular.

AOL members donate about 300 items at each meeting. With 8 meetings a month (2 meetings at each of our 4 locations), that's 2,400 items. Many items are donated in Ziploc and kitchen trash bags. It is very helpful to have the Peyton Project hearts and prayer squares in bags; newspaper bags work well. Larger bags turned in with baby sets (blanket, hat and booties) are expensive--I am happy to return them to you, just ask!

Please write or affix a note on the outside of your bags with the number of items to save me time in counting them. We keep a record of our donated items.

So yes, we need plastic--however, know that I recycle every bag to help the environment.

Happy crafting as we go into the month of May, and thank you for choosing AOL by giving of your time and talents!

Kind Regards,

Jen Smith
Founder and Outreach Coordinator

AOL Calendar May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1	2 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am
3	4 Everglades Mtg 10:00am	5	6	7	8 Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am
10	11	12	13 Fruitland Park 2:00pm	14	15 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am
17	18 Everglades Mtg 10:00am	19	20	21	22 Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am
24	25	26	27 Fruitland Park 2:00pm	28	29 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am
31					

OUR PROJECTS



Charities list: link to [Charities List](#)

Patterns: link to [Patterns](#) on our website

Size chart: link to [Size Chart](#). See this chart for info on sizes needed for our items.

MOST NEEDED

* **Umbrellas for the homeless.** Any size, faded or not. Take to any meeting in May.

For Knitters, Crocheters, Loomers:

* **Baby sets** - Lightweight blankets ~24-24" to fit our packaging (NOT 14x14"). Use pastels, soft yarn. Hat/bootie sets to go with blankets always needed. These sets go to new moms as they leave the hospital.

* **Blankets/Children** - bright colors, minimum 36x36"

* **Blankets/Lapghans** - for men and women (see size chart on website)

* **Critters** - any character/animal up to 6" tall, lightly stuffed so they are "squishy." We donate to memory care facilities.

To Amigurumi animal crafters: Bulky yarn available in a variety of colors; let us know what you need. Larger items sold really well at our craft sale; next sale is 10/9/26 Rohan Rec Center.

* **Hats** - for all ages, but NO toddler size. We are well on the way to our 5,000 goal.

* **Hats/Chemo** - see note below under "This and That." Directions now included in each bag with yarn we provide.

* **Mittens** - beginning to collect now

* **Peyton Project Hearts** - No need to add tags. Find pattern on their website [HERE](#)

* **Prayer squares** - must be 4 x 5", use AOL patterns on web, cardboard templates available

* **Soap sacks** - cotton yarn ONLY, use AOL patterns, with or without soap

For Sewers:

* **Clothing protectors** - fabric/velcro provided

* **Eye shields** - for NICU babies, instructions on AOL website

* **Pillows/cardiac** - sew, but do not stuff

* **Pillows/heart stress for hand w/strap**

* **Pillows/mastectomy** - sew, but do not stuff

* **Pillows/port covers** - kits available

* **Walker bags** - use sturdy/upholstery fabric, pattern/velcro provided

NOT NEEDED AT THIS TIME

* **Blankets:** 14x14" preemie and large bed-size

* **Buntings for babies**

* **Hats** - toddler size (32-peg loom)

* **Hearts of love**

* **LIFE blankets & shawls**

ONGOING

For Knitters, Crocheters, Loomers:

* **Mats/bag** - from grocery bags made on wood looms

* **Picc line (IV) covers** - for all ages, baby to adult, knitted preferred

- * **Panels, 7 x 9"** - No blanket yarn please--too heavy when joined. Granny squares, typically 5x5, are not needed.
- * **Scarves** - adult 5-6" wide x 45" long (do not need short ones for children)
- * **Shawls/adult** - Regular shawls. No LIFE shawls.
- * **Twiddle mats** - using #5 bulky yarn, placemat size, knit or crochet. Mats should not be open weave but solid. Mats must be washable in hot water. Attach items carefully--strong thread, dental floss, or crochet cotton works best. NO glued-on items. Items needed to affix to mats--large buttons, thread spools, keys, small zippers, small toys, textured items, items that can be firmly attached.

For Sewers:

- * **"Carrots" for hands** - see Jen Smith for pattern
- * **Dolls, medical** - fabric kits provided
- * **Hats/surgical for youth** - fabric kits provided
- * **Pillowcases** - for children up to 17 years old. One-yard fabric pieces provided; pattern on website.
- * **Pillows/small** - for children, instructions on website
- * **Prayer pockets** - sewn, pattern on website

UPCOMING EVENTS



International Knit in Public Day

Mark your calendar and join us on Monday, 6/8/26, 9am-noon, for "International Knit in Public Day." We'll be in the outdoor pavilion at Everglades Rec Center. Bring any handcraft project, chair, and refreshments.

[CLICK HERE](#) for 2-per-page flyer. Please share on social media!

Craft Sale, Fri. 10/9/26 at Rohan Rec Center

More info will be in future newsletters.

AOL DONATIONS - April 2026



Items donated in April 2026: **1,453**

Hats to storage: **598**

COMPLETED PROJECTS



Lovely blanket by Hillary Wilkinson, Everglades



THIS AND THAT

Chemo Hat Info

Our chemo hats have specifications to meet the needs of chemo patients:

* use the chemo yarn we provide which is very soft (we supply Caron Simply Soft)



* make hat with circumference around brim ~18-20"

* make height from top to bottom of brim ~9", so it comes down over ears

* Return the hat in the original bag that is marked "chemo hat"

* Use patterns on our website or see this site:

<https://www.knotsoflove.org/patterns>

(Do not use "helmet" patterns provided for Operation Shoebox hats.)

Looms Available!

Jen Smith has FREE long and round looms for anyone wanting to add to their collection. Email Jen and tell her what size you want and where you want to pick them up.

Crochet Tire Cover



A fun crochet project made by Rebecca Ahlgrim from Everglades. She made others for the holidays too; easy to slip off and wash!

THANK YOU'S



Thank You

Tampa General Hospital

"Your surgical hats and "me" dolls are such a welcomed donation. The matching hats and dolls thrill our little patients and staff, as well. Please know how much joy your talents bring."

Carol Hangen, TGH Volunteer

Kids Central, Inc., Wildwood

"Thank you for your thoughtful donation of the handmade items.... Kids Central is the non-profit organization charged with caring for some of the most vulnerable children and families in (our area) who have been abused and neglected or are at-risk..."

Kimberly McGlothern, Director of Community Affairs

AdventHealth Foundation

"I wanted to reach out and share the different areas in which I was able to share your group's generous donations!

Infusion/Chemo Patients – All hats, fingerless gloves, port covers, heart stress pillows (the infusion team was excited about these and think they will be very helpful when putting in an IV).

Eden Spa Patients – Knitted knockers, mastectomy pillows.

Music & Art Therapy Patients – Prayer squares for therapists to provide after a session.

Thank you again for allowing me to come meet with you and the other ladies who have dedicated countless hours to making an impact in the patients at AdventHealth and far beyond! I would love to have you and anyone else from the group come take a tour of the hospital and meet these different departments if you are ever in town."

Gratefully, Ellen Atkins, Senior Development Specialist, AdventHealth Foundation

AdventHealth Waterman Hospital

"I wanted to reach out personally to express my heartfelt gratitude for all of the wonderful handmade blankets and items you generously provide for our patients. Your organization's kindness truly shines through with every piece, and it's clear that our patients feel the warmth, care, and love that you put into your gifts. The joy and comfort these items bring are immeasurable, and we are incredibly thankful for the time, talent, and compassion you share with AdventHealth Waterman."

Warm regards, Karen Ivison

Niswonger Children's Hospital, Johnson City, TN

"We received the dolls today and they are ADORABLE!! Thank you so much for taking the time to share and make our days brighter at Niswonger. Your gift is very much appreciated!"

Thank you, Holly Rinehart, Children's Administration



Holly with a medical doll

Cornerstone Hospice

(They asked for small pillows so patients have a comfortable place to hold hands with visitors; luckily we were able to comply with our latest child-size pillow project!)

"I would like to thank you for the pillows and let you know that they are a HIT! We will take more small pillows anytime "

Thank you, Angela Burrows, Volunteer Coordinator

Inova Fairfax Hospital, Virginia

We received this pic from Inova Fairfax Hospital of a young patient holding one of the child-size pillows. His mom kindly gave permission to share with us. She said "just wanted to let you know Jackson's been holding onto the pillow he got off the prize cart since Thursday!"



The hospital cart with the pillows ready to go to patients.



Thank You From Nancy Still

I want to gratefully thank all the great sewers that make the medical dolls, surgical hats, and small pillows for children at the hospitals. It has been an honor for the last several years to coordinate and send out these projects. They have been so worthwhile for both the children and staff. In April alone, we sent out over 230 of these adorable projects! And we use every bit of children's fabric that we acquire - scraps are used to make toddler quilts for donation.

Financials - April 2026

Beginning Balance:	\$19,532.69
Income:	109.00
Expenses:	<u>1,330.87</u>
Ending Balance:	\$18,310.82

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

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

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Web Site: tvabundanceoflove.com

Officially Established June 2019
Designated 501(c)(3) Non-Profit October 2024
Founder Jen Smith

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