

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 - JANUARY 2026

Jen's Corner



Happy New Year! My hope for you in the new year is good health, connections with family and friends, and an optimistic outlook. Our Abundance Of Love lifestyle club, which formed in June 2019 and became a 501(c)(3) in October 2024, was a success almost from the start. I have been able to make connections throughout the community with charitable organizations and donors who are willing to support our cause. Of course you, AOL members, are the heart and soul of what we do. Each of us has 24 hours in a day and we decide how those hours are spent. You not only give your crafting talent but choose to give of your time, and that time is truly appreciated.

There are some new and exciting events planned for early 2026. Stay tuned into the monthly newsletter and find everything you need on our website.

Gratefully, Jen Smith
Founder and Outreach Coordinator

AOL Calendar January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am	3
4	5 Everglades Mtg 10:00am	6	7	8	9 Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am	10
11	12	13	14 Fruitland Park 2:00pm	15	16 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am	17
18	19 Everglades Mtg 10:00am	20	21	22	23 Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am	24
25	26	27	28 Fruitland Park 2:00pm	29	30 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am *Fundraiser for Service Dog, 6pm Lake Miona Rec Ctr	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

* **Craft Sale Items** - Kitchen, baby-related, stuffed animals, bookmarks, dog items, spring flower arrangements, small items \$1 to \$3.

For Sewers:



* **Clothing protectors** - fabric, pattern, velcro provided

* **Walker bags** - fabric, pattern, velcro provided

For Knitters, Crocheters, Loomers:

* **Blankets** - for adults

- * **Hearts/crocheted** - for Peyton Project, video pattern on website
- * **Soap sacks** - cotton yarn preferred

NOT NEEDED AT THIS TIME

- * **Bags, grocery**
- * **Hats** - toddler (32-peg loom)
- * **LIFE blankets & shawls**

NEEDED AND ONGOING

- * **Baby items** - Lightweight blankets 24-26" in pastels, soft yarn, and hat/bootie sets to go with blankets are always needed. These go to new moms as they leave the hospital.
- * **Blankets** - All blankets, other than the baby ones noted above, should be a minimum of 36x36". Use pastel and bright colors for children. Please see new size chart on website. No LIFE blankets.
- * **Critters** - any character/animal up to 6" tall, lightly stuffed so they are "squishy"
- * **Dolls, medical** - we provide fabric kits to sew
- * **Eye shields for NICU babies** - size 2 x 9-10". Two-sided, SOFT fabrics, sewn & turned. Dark on one side (i.e, black flannel), pretty fabric on other side. Top stitch only opening to turn.
- * **Hats** - for all ages, including preemie and newborn. No toddler size.
- * **Hats/surgical for youth** - sewn, we provide kits
- * **Mats/bag** - from grocery bags made on wood looms
- * **Panels 7 x 9"** - knitted/crocheted, any stitch pattern but not open/lacey
- * **Picc line (IV) covers** - for all ages, baby to adult, knitted preferred
- * **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
- * **Prayer squares** - must be 4 x 5", pattern on web, cardboard templates available
- * **Scarves** - 4-5" wide, 36-50" long. *Do NOT need scarves for children.
- * **Shawls/adult** - Regular shawls. No LIFE shawls.
- * **Twiddle mats** - using #5 bulky yarn, placemat size, knit or crochet. 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Fundraiser for Service Dog

Jen Smith has organized a fundraiser to help raise funds for Elite Dog Training to help pay for training an alert service dog for 18 year old Layla Dehart who has night seizures. It will be held on Fri. 1/30/26, 6pm, at Lake Miona Rec Center. Tickets are available from Jen (352-250-3431,). Abundance Of Love is sponsoring in name only. For a flyer, [CLICK HERE](#)

Other ways to help: Donate an item for a spa, dog-related, or variety gift basket; volunteer to help set up and usher at the event; donate funds thru the family GoFundMe page: <https://gofund.me/a1339ad45>

Craft Sale Dates for 2026

Mark your calendar for out 2026 craft sale fundraisers:

- * Fri. 3/20 at SeaBreeze Rec Center. There will be no meetings at Big Cypress on 3/13 or at La Hacienda on 3/20.
- * Fri. 10/9 at Rohan Rec Center. There will be no meeting at Big Cypress on 10/9.

Volunteers are needed to help set up, monitor tables, and takedown. Please contact Jen Smith.

Lunar New Year's Event

Van Thompson, who has organized fundraisers for AOL in the past, has organized an event on 1/31/26 to celebrate the Lunar New Year 2026. Please see her flyer for more details - [CLICK HERE](#)



AOL DONATIONS - 2025

Items donated in December 2025: **896**

TOTAL donations in 2025: **20,233**

Adult blankets donated in 2025: **190**

Hats donated in 2025: **9,172**

Bag mats donated in 2025: **68**

All schools who received our hats, scarves & headbands in 2025:

Elementary Schools:

- Bentley Elementary School, Sanford
- Bushnell Elementary School
- Fruitland Park Elementary School
- Lake Panasoffkee Elementary School
- Lake Weir Elementary School, Summerfield
- Lawton Elementary School, Oviedo
- Leesburg Elementary School
- Oak Park Elementary School, Titusville
- St. Paul's Catholic Elementary School, Leesburg
- Treadway Elementary, Leesburg
- Webster Elementary
- Weirsdale Elementary School
- Wildwood Elementary School

Middle Schools:

- Carver Middle School, Leesburg

Other Schools:

- The King's Academy, Summerfield
- The Rock School Program, Ocala

COMPLETED PROJECTS



On Christmas Day, Jen Smith distributed hats & scarves at the Wildwood Soup Kitchen--here's

Jen with her new friend Richard.



Sue Francis (Everglades) and neighbor Jane Christensen made 101 preemie hats for the AdventHealth NICU.



Blanket by Connie Holz, La Hacienda, using specialty yarn



Panel blankets by Jana Garrison and Sherry Bibby, Fruitland Park

Pics from Linda Ryan



This group of neighborhood women meet at Margaret Thisell's home on Wednesdays and enjoy friendship, gabbing, and looming. Their items are provided to AOL. From left to right Gabi Bilbrey, Margaret Thisell, Louise Taylor, Mary Ellen Gosselin and Cheryl Grotovsky.



An AOL group that meets at Linda Ryan's home on Mondays got together at Prima's Italian Steakhouse for a holiday luncheon. We were so thrilled and thankful our AOL founder and leader Jen Smith was able to join us. Other attendees were Nancy Roggenbauer, Barb Goeske, Mary Ellen Gosselin, Faye McCarrell, Deb Mehr, Maria Luchese, Arlene Brennan, and Linda Ryan.



THIS AND THAT

Yarn Donation Bins in Feb. 2026

Yarn collection bins for AOL will be placed at all four of our AOL meeting locations for the month of February 2026. Please share info with your neighbors and friends. All types of yarn are needed.

Save Your Christmas Cards

Don't throw away your pretty holiday cards! Save the front half only (no personal notes) and bring to any AOL meeting for others to make lovely ornaments for donation in future holiday seasons.



THANK YOU'S Thank You

From Sherri Estrada with Lanai Loomers who are part of AOL:

"I got a text from my niece Rachel, a Special Ed teacher in Stafford, Virginia. She just gave all her 3 & 4 year olds their hats made by the Lanai Loomers because it started getting cold up there. She said the kids were so excited and their parents were so thankful. One of her parents sent her an email at 7:00pm to tell her that her child loves the hat so much she hasn't taken it off yet. She just wanted to thank Rachel for making her kid so happy. AOL sure made these kids happy campers."

Centers for Independence, Milwaukee, WI

"On behalf of everyone at CFI, I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for your generous donation of beautiful winterwear for our LIFE Services clients. Your support makes a profound difference in our ability to create healthy, hopeful, and inclusive communities where people with disabilities and behavioral health needs can truly thrive."

Heidi Chada, Interim President and CEO

Education Foundation of Lake County

"Thank you all so much for the generous gift! All those hats, scarves & mittens will be warming up our students soon. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated. Thank you again!"

All the best, Kacey

Hope House of Milwaukee, WI

"This note is to thank you for your recent donation of handmade hats, mittens, scarves, and headbands. We truly appreciate your generosity this holiday season." Your friends at Hope House

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 ...Sumter County who have been abused and neglected or at-risk.... serving approx. 3,000 children directly involved with the child welfare system."

John Cooper, CEO

Tampa General Hospital

"We are always excited and grateful when your handiwork arrives to help with our pediatric patients. The dolls are keepsakes and the new fabric book and bear will be cherished."

Thank you, Carol Hangen



Story About a Child's Pillow

A few months ago, AOL began sending child-size pillows to Inova Fairfax Hospital in Virginia. The nurse there, Janice Mellette, requested them as the children love them and their prior handcrafters had stopped making them. She just received this sweet note from the mother of a former patient. Although he received a pillow from the prior craft group, we wanted to share the story to let you know how much your donations are appreciated, even something as small as a child's pillow.

"Years ago you helped my son who was going through cancer. He is a senior in high school now! His college essay was about the pillow he got in recovery from



your nurses.

I wanted you to know the lasting impact you've had on his life! He is healthy and 8 years in remission. Here is a photo of him and I at Thanksgiving."

Fruitland Park Elementary School

One of 15 thank you color pages from 2nd graders at Fruitland Park Elementary.



Financials - December 2025

Beginning Balance:	\$19,499.87
Income:	3.00
Expenses:	<u>360.56</u>
Ending Balance:	\$19,142.31

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
Correspondence - Kathy Hughes, 941-264-4074, mjh3corvettes@gmail.com

Web Site: tvabundanceoflove.com

Officially Established June 2020
Designated 501(c)(3) Non-Profit October 2024
Founder Jen Smith

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