

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 - JULY 2025

Jen's Corner



The Wildwood Food Bank provides snacks for the after-school program and you can help! AOL will collect items in July and August - please drop off snacks at any AOL meeting. The list of suggested items is below.

An after-school food program plays a vital role in promoting the health, well being, and academic success of children, particularly those facing challenges related to nutrition and access to food. Proper nutrition is essential for development and cognitive function. By providing a nutritious snack or meal, these programs help children concentrate on their homework and other activities, leading to improved academic performance. For some children, especially those from low income families, these programs may be a crucial source of reliable and consistent meals. This also provides peace of mind for parents knowing that their children are receiving some supplemental food over the weekend.

Thank you for your participation.

Warm regards,
Jen Smith
Founder and Outreach Coordinator

Wildwood Food Bank, After-School Snack Program

Currently the snack program serves over 425 children in need of weekend food supplementation in these Sumter County schools: Wildwood Elementary, Wildwood Intermediate, Bushnell Elementary, Webster Elementary, Panasoffkee Elementary. Accepted individually wrapped items: juice boxes, shelf-stable milk, pudding cups, oatmeal, popcorn, fruit cups/applesauce, peanut butter/cheese crackers, cookies/fruit snacks, jerky/potted meat, pretzels/chips, granola/cereal bars.

AOL Calendar July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3	4 (NO La Hacienda mtgs in July)
6	7 Everglades Mtg 10:00am	8	9 Fruitland Park Comm. Ctr Mtg 2:00pm	10	11 (NO Big Cypress mtg; rec ctr closed)
13	14	15	16	17	18
20	21 Everglades Mtg 10:00am	22	23 Fruitland Park Comm. Ctr Mtg 2:00pm	24	25 Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am
27	28	29	30	31	

No La Hacienda meetings in July; location for Aug/Sept mtgs TBD.

No Big Cypress meeting 7/11.

Arrive for Fruitland Park meetings at 2:00 or after, not before.



OUR PROJECTS

Patterns - see tvabundanceoflove.com **Pattern Links**

Size chart - see tvabundanceoflove.com **Our Needs**

Charities list - see link at end of newsletter

MOST NEEDED

- * **Blankets, patriotic lap** - We have red, white, and blue yarn; however, we do not put it out as sometimes only the white is taken. Ask your group leader for yarn for this project.
- * **Critters** - any character/animal up to 6" tall, lightly stuffed so they are "squishy."
- * **Knitted knockers** - in sizes A, B, C, and D. We have specialty yarn & stuffing.
- * **Plarn (plastic yarn)** - we have cut bags.
- * **Prayer squares** - must be ~4x5", pattern on web, cardboard templates available.
- * **Twiddle mats** - using #5 bulky yarn, placemat size, knit or crochet. Make or use items that can be firmly attached to the mats -- yarn spools, short zippers, large buttons, keys, anything with texture.

ON HOLD

- * **Pillows/cardiac** - large pillows used to cover chest
- * **Pillows/mastectomy, heart-shaped** - for breast cancer patients
- * **Pillows/neck**

NEEDED AND ONGOING

- * **Baby items** - Lightweight blankets 24-26" 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** - Most sizes needed: LIFE blankets, baby set blankets 24-26", size ~36" can be in baby colors or bright colors for children. Teen and adult sizes also needed. Pound of Love and one pound skeins are enough for blankets.
- * **Clothing protectors**
- * **Eye shields for NICU babies** - size 2 x 9-10". Two-sided, SOFT fabrics, sewn & turned. Top stitch only end to close. Must be dark on one side (i.e, black flannel), pretty fabric on other side.
- * **Hats/scarves/mittens** - for all ages
- * **Hats/surgical** - sewn, for youth
- * **Mat making from grocery bags**
- * **Medical dolls** - all parts--doll bodies, gowns, hats. Materials provided.
- * **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. Cut-to-size fabric provided.
- * **Pillows, port**
- * **Prayer pockets** - sewn, pattern on web

- * **Scarves** - 4-5" wide, 36-50" long, fringe or no-fringe
- * **Shawls** - including LIFE shawls
- * **Soap sacks**
- * **Toiletries** - small travel size

NOT NEEDED

- * **14x14" baby blankets**
- * **Boxes**
- * **Grocery bags**
- * **Pattern books, knit needles, crochet hooks**
- * **Prescription bottles**
- * **Toddler hats (32-peg loom)**

THIS AND THAT



Meeting Notes

- * La Hacienda - Since there are no meetings at LH in July, you can contact Jen if you'd like to drop off donations and pick up yarn, 352-250-3431, jpsmith5@comcast.net. Stay tuned as we were informed that La Hacienda will continue maintenance in to September; we will let you know where meetings will be held for August and September.
- * Big Cypress will not have a meeting 7/11; the rec center will be closed for maintenance.
- * Do not arrive at the FP meetings before 2:00 as other center activities are wrapping up prior to our meetings.

Yarn

Red, white and blue yarn is still available to be used for patriotic lap blankets for veterans in hospice care. We plan on a Veteran's Day donation to VITAS Hospice in The Villages.

Baby sets are needed as an ongoing project, and include a blanket ~24-26", newborn hat, and booties.

Our yarn supply in storage will carry us through the rest of 2025. After the supply is depleted, we will purchase yarn from various retail stores with applied discounts.

Storage Units

Storage units under contract are:

- * Unit #6000, size 5x7', free to us from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society since 2015!
- * Unit #6341, size 7.5x10', \$69 per month plus tax/fees, paid through the end of the year.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Donations by our OH-SO creative members! The specialty yarn is being used to make such great items; thank you Doris Hoffman for suggesting uses for the different types of yarn donated to AOL. Nothing goes to waste!



Blanket by Doris Hoffman



Isolette cover by Barbara Cornell, La Hacienda



Hats made by Big Cypress members using "ribbon" yarn.



Blanket by Bonnie Bonniwell



Patriotic blankets by Louise Wilson & Barb Bidek, Everglades



Blanket by Mary Don Dillard, Fruitland Park



Bag mats completed by Dawn Rathai/Everglades and Debi Boldt/Fruitland Park



Lovely intricate hats by Nan Gillespie, Big Cypress



Betty Streich, from Linda Ryan's "Pickering Path" group, made these cute loomed comfort dolls. Here's a link to the YouTube video to make them:

<https://youtu.be/RPJwigItrZ8?si=UyZ4Ll87GyyWWGX6>



97 hats from ladies at Buffalo Crossings Senior Living. Thank you Kay Kennedy at Buffalo and Lynn West at AOL for being our liaisons with these great ladies. Lynn noted one lady, although blind, knits beautifully & has a friend begin & end the projects for her.

AOL DONATIONS - JUNE 2025



Items donated: **687**, including 200 crochet hearts for the Peyton Heart Project, a mental health/suicide awareness organization

Hats to storage: **1,080**

Grocery bag mats: **42 completed!** Our mat makers are working hard to reach our goal of 50 mats for 2025.

THANK YOU'S



Tampa General

"Thank you all for the most useful appreciated hats & dolls. The details with different hair types and little signs on the dolls make each a unique keepsake."
Carol Hansen, Volunteer

Angels Above Gowns

"Thank you Abundance Of Love for your donation. Your generosity means everything to us and to the community we serve. We truly appreciate your kindness!"

AdventHealth Waterman

"Thank you so much for the donations. We appreciate you."
Karen Ivison

Financials - June 2025

Beginning Balance:	\$10,234.56
Income:	4,539.00
Expenses:	<u>1,112.44</u>
Ending Balance:	\$13,661.12

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

Web Site: tvabundanceoflove.com

Charities We Support

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

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