

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 - MARCH 2026

Jen's Corner

**We ♥ Our
Volunteers**

On February 28, 2026, AOL hosted our first Volunteer Appreciation event at Bradenton Recreation Center with over 100 of our long-time members present. This was long overdue and was made possible by several monetary donations we received that were earmarked for this event. Planning began back in the summer of 2025. Finally, your Board members and Group Leaders were able to express their gratitude for your commitment to our mission of helping others. We hope each of you enjoyed our slideshow presentation that showed photos from the last 5 years.

Representatives attended from 3 of our larger charities. They were Justin and Hailey Burger from the Christian Care Center, Jana and Steve McGarvey from AdventHealth Orlando, and Robert Bacon from Vitas Healthcare. They each expressed their appreciation for the hundreds of items we donate to them every month.

You can view photos from the event below.

Thank you to all who made this event possible. And thank you to our members for your continued support to help make a difference in our community!

Warmly,
Jen Smith
Founder and Outreach Coordinator

AOL Calendar March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2 Everglades Mtg 10:00am	3	4	5	6 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am
8	9	10	11 Fruitland Park 2:00pm	12	13 *No Mtg at at Big Cypress
15	16 Everglades Mtg 10:00am	17	18	19	20 CRAFT SHOW, 9-1 SeaBreeze Rec Ctr *No Mtg at La Hac
22	23	24	25 Fruitland Park 2:00pm	26	27 Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am
29	30 Everglades Mtg 10:00am	31			

*** There are no meetings at Big Cypress on 3/13 or La Hacienda on 3/20.**

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.

* **Bags, grocery**

For Knitters, Crocheters, Loomers:

* **Blankets** - Lapghans, 30-32 x 36" in patriotic colors and other colors for men and women.

* **Hats** - all sizes

* **Mittens** - all sizes

* **Scarves** - **adult** 5-6" wide x 45" long (do not need short ones for children)

* **Soap sacks** - **ONLY** made w/cotton yarn and **ONLY** use AOL patterns, with or without soap

For Sewers:

* **Heart stress hand pillows w/strap**

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

NOT NEEDED AT THIS TIME

* **Blankets in these sizes: 14x14" preemie and large bed-size.**

* **Baby buntings**

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

* **Hearts of love**

* **LIFE blankets & shawls**

* **Prescription bottles**

NEEDED AND ONGOING

For Knitters, Crocheters, Loomers:

* **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.

* **Critters** - any character/animal up to 6" tall, lightly stuffed so they are "squishy"

* **Hats** - for all ages, including preemie and newborn. No toddler size.

* **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"**,

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

* **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.

For Sewers:

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

* **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/surgical for youth** - sewn, we provide kits

* **Pillowcases** - for children up to 17 years old. One-yard fabric pieces provided; pattern on website.

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

* **Pillows/port covers**

* **Pillows/small** - for children, instructions on website

* **Prayer pockets** - sewn, pattern on website

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

Here are some pics from our Volunteer Appreciation event on 2/28/26.
A good time was had by all!

The room was full.....



Our guests from 3 charities: Rob Bacon (Vitas), Hailey and Justin Burger (Christian Care Center), and Jana McGarvey (AdventHealth Orlando).



A few of our wonderful members.





Neighbor helpers with the yummy refreshments.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Craft Sale, Fri. 3/20/26, 9-1, at SeaBreeze Rec Center

Please turn in your items at any upcoming meeting, if possible, until the craft sale. If you have last minute items, you can contact one of these members to arrange a drop-off day/time. Their contact info is at the bottom of the newsletter.

- Bonnie Mulneix, in Tall Trees
- Kathy Morey, in Lynnhaven
- Nancy Still, in Bridgeport at Lake Sumter

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 a project and a chair.

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

More info will be in future newsletters.

AOL DONATIONS - February 2026



Items donated in February 2026: **896**

Hats in storage so far in 2026: **1,700**

COMPLETED PROJECTS



Crocheted chickens for the craft show by Ann Lucas, Everglades



Baby sweater sets & mittens by Lynn West,
Big Cypress



Blanket from small balls/specialty yarn by
Diane Fedell, Big Cypress



Panel blanket put together by Kathy Hughes,
La Hacienda



Panel blanket by Everglades member



Diane Parette, Big Cypress, gave hats to Spanish-speaking students in their English classes. Ann Williams, Big Cypress, teaches them and Diane assists her. Diane said "they were so happy and excited. It was as if they had all just won the lottery. They couldn't believe the hats were free. They kept asking how much, how much! They were cheering when they put it on their heads."



AOL's table at the Giving Club Showcase on 2/7/26. We had the opportunity to talk to several people interested in our club!



Dennis and Linda Ryan delivered hats to Happy Days Child Care Center in Leesburg. The Ryans are part of the Lake Sumter Lions Club who visited to perform vision screening for children at the daycare.

THIS AND THAT



A Few Project Reminders

- * Never use safety pins on hearts of love. Just keep the duplicate hearts together on the table. We cannot donate them with the pins.
- * Trim threads on sewn projects.
- * Do not use thick blanket chenille yarn for baby items.
- * Do not turn in baby buntings; the hospitals will not take them.

- * Hats - Please use medium weight yarn. Heavy #5 bulk yarn makes super thick hats which are generally too hot for FL weather so we must find people to take them north. Also please do not use the largest size loom for hats which make them too big.
- * Wash and iron the pillowcase fabric; although it's cut to size, it should be washed. Much of our fabric comes from estate sales.
- * If you would like a pic of something you made added to our monthly newsletter, please ask Nancy Still or your group leader to take a pic. We love your special projects! Thanks

THANK YOU'S



Thank You

Cincinnati Children's Hospital

"Thank you so much for the beautiful dolls you sent. We truly appreciate everything you do..."

Alicia, Hospital Sewing Room

Tampa General Hospital

"Tampa General Hospital is very appreciative of your finely crafted "me" dolls. The children love receiving them and our staff cannot thank you enough for the help they bring in determining diagnoses. The matching surgical caps are a big hit."

Carol Hangen, TGH Volunteer

Villages Elementary

"The students are loving the mittens! Thank you so much for the heartfelt gifts! With the weather being like it is, the children have needed them. We appreciate you!"

Kindly, Jeanne McDonald

Centers for Independence, Milwaukee, WI

"On behalf of everyone at Centers for Independence, I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for your generous donation of beautiful winterwear for our 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

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... At any single point in time, Kids Central is serving approx. 3,000 children directly involved with the child welfare system."

Kimberly McGlothern, Director of Community Affairs

Financials - February 2026

Beginning Balance:	\$18,882.63
Income:	54.80
Expenses:	<u>1993.59</u>
Ending Balance:	\$16,943.84

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

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