

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 - DECEMBER 2025

Jen's Corner





Wow! What a spectacular year it has been. We have increased our membership, donated 67 adult size grocery bag mats, added 5 more charities in December, donated over 9,172 hats to 15 schools, and our bank account has never looked healthier! All of this proves to me that we are making a huge difference in our community... people recognize it takes funding for us to do what we do and are very generous in their giving.

As you can imagine, there is a huge amount of “work” being done behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly. Our Board members are committed to our success and their time is invaluable - thank you so much. We make a great team! To our AOL members who come to meetings, those who drop off items, and all who have AOL’s best interest at heart, we thank you.

May you enjoy good health and happy times in 2026. Happy Holidays!

Warm regards,
Jen Smith
Founder and Outreach Coordinator

AOL Calendar December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 Everglades Mtg 10:00am	2	3	4	5 La Hacienda M HOLIDAY PA 8:30am
7	8	9	10 Fruitland Park HOLIDAY PARTY 2:00pm	11	12 Big Cypress M HOLIDAY PA 9:00am
14 Hanukkah Begins 	15 Everglades Mtg HOLIDAY PARTY 10:00am	16	17	18	19 La Hacienda M 8:30am
21	22	23	24 Fruitland Park 2:00pm	25  Christmas	26 Big Cypress M 9:00am
28	29 NO EV meeting	30	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

For Sewers:



- * **Clothing protectors** - fabric, pattern, velcro provided
- * **Pillows/heart stress, small for hand** - fabric, pattern provided
- * **Pillows/port** - kits provided
- * **Walker bags** - fabric, pattern, velcro provided

For Knitters, Crocheters, Loomers:

- * **Blankets** - 14x14 preemie AND 36x36 for children
- * **Hats** - for elementary schools. We begin again for 2026 distribution.
- * **Hearts/crocheted** - for Peyton Project, video pattern on our site
- * **Mittens** - all sizes
- * **Soap sacks**

NOT NEEDED AT THIS TIME

- * **Bags, grocery**
- * **Hats** - toddler (32-peg loom)
- * **LIFE blankets & shawls**
- * **Prescription bottles** (on hold til 1/26)

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



Holiday Parties This Month

Each meeting location will celebrate the holiday season with a potluck brunch or afternoon dessert station. Dates are: La Hacienda 12/5, Fruitland Park 12/10, Big Cypress 12/12, Everglades 12/15. Please bring a food item to share (for 8-10 people), along with a note of ingredients for those with allergies. AOL will provide paper products and beverages.

Craft Sale Dates for 2026

Mark your calendar and when the holidays are over (shoo!), get your crafting projects rolling...here's the dates for our craft sale fundraisers in 2026:

* 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.

AOL DONATIONS - November 2025



Items donated: **4,577**

Total hats donated this year: **> 9,172 to 15 schools**

Hats, scarves & headbands delivered to schools by Linda & Dennis Ryan:

- Treadway Elementary, Leesburg - 860 hats and scarfs on 11/6
- Bushnell Elementary - 800 hats and scarves on 11/7
- Webster Elementary - 200 hats and scarves on 11/7



Delivery to Webster Elementary



958 items to AdventHealth Orlando 11/25

NEW CHARITIES ADDED TO OUR GROWING LIST

- * Lake County Education's Apple-Mart has 3 locations--Leesburg, Mascotte, Eustis. Teachers can shop for free classroom supplies. We donated 750 hats and scarves.
- * Linda Ryan, a member of Sumter Lions Club who does vision screening, was instrumental in donating toddler hats to several day care centers.
- * Cypress Care Center in Wildwood offers medical and rehabilitation services. They requested twiddle mats and we were able to provide 20 mats along with lap blankets.
- * Freedom Point Rehab received 25 lap blankets.
- * AdventHealth Centra Care Blanket Brigade in Leesburg received 35 adult sizes blankets. Their distribution starts 12/10 in the Orlando area.
- * Sherry Valleau, a home visitation nurse from St. Lucie County, FL, asked for premie hats for underprivileged new moms. We were able to send 130 in various sizes.

COMPLETED PROJECTS & EVENTS



Sock Drive

Our "DeFeet the Cold" sock drive in November collected 348 pairs of socks. Thank you so

much to all who donated. Socks were distributed to the Gateway to Hope Ministries, Lake Cares, Beyond the Walls Food Pantry, and Kids Central.

Donation Distribution on Thanksgiving

Jen Smith and Kathy Mackzum distributed hats, scarves, mittens, and socks on Thanksgiving Day 11/27/25 at the Wildwood Soup Kitchen.... just in time for cool weather! Recipients were extremely grateful.



Kathy Mackzum at the table

Blankets Made with Specialty Yarn



Laura Cox, Everglades



Doris Hoffman (hidden behind the blanket!)



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.

Fundraiser for Service Dog

Personal note from Jen:

I have taken on the challenge to help raise funds for Layla Dehart who desperately needs an alert service dog that can detect seizures. Training alone costs \$12,000. Should you wish to donate in any amount, this is the link to Layla's GoFundMe

page: <https://gofund.me/a1339ad45>

On 1/30/26, a fundraiser is planned with Abundance Of Love sponsoring in name only. No AOL funds will be used. Flyer and information will be in our January newsletter.

THANK YOU'S



Bushnell Elementary School

Thank You

"On behalf of our entire school community, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for the incredible donation of hand-knitted hats and scarves. Your kindness, creativity, and care have touched us deeply. Each piece is not just a gift of warmth--it's a symbol of love, compassion, and community spirit. The time, effort, and skill you poured into every stitch are evident, and our students were absolutely thrilled to receive such beautiful, cozy items. For many of them, these gifts mean more than you can imagine. You've not only helped keep them warm this season--you've made them feel seen, valued, and cared for....."

Jason McCormick, School Counselor

Oak Park Middle School, Leesburg

"Thank you so much for the knitted hats, the kids love them. Right on time for the season change. We at Oak Park Middle School thank you!"

Tiana Dress, Family Liaison

Villages Elementary School

"Thank you so much for all of the handmade beanies! The students are going to love them. It is perfect timing. Y'all are THE biggest blessing to our families. Thanks again."

Jeanne MacDonald and our Villages Elementary Family

Vitas Healthcare (home hospice care)

Rob Bacon spoke at a recent La Hacienda meeting. In his monthly newsletter, he noted....
"Throughout the year, Abundance of Love's club design and create hundreds of craft items for our patients. I had the pleasure of speaking at their meeting and giving our gratitude for all that you do. So amazing!"

Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, Hollywood, FL

"Thank you for your donation of 20 medical dolls. We appreciate your support and for thinking of our Foundation as a recipient of your generosity...."

Centers for Independence, Milwaukee

"We are so moved by your donation of winterwear for our clients. We deeply appreciate this act of kindness and send our gratitude to all who contributed from Abundance Of Love." (Hats were delivered by Linda & Dennis Ryan.)

Sadie Jaber, Development Manager

We also received lovely thank you notes created at their day program for individuals with disabilities.



Financials - November 2025

Beginning Balance:	\$17,766.30
Income:	2,584.50
Expenses:	<u>850.93</u>
Ending Balance:	\$19,499.87

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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