

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 - OCTOBER 2025



Jen's Corner

From time to time, I feature an organization that receives our donations. SALT ([Service and Love Together](#)) has many locations including Leesburg. SALT reports that people coming to them for services has increased by 535% with over half being youth, young adults, and those over 55.

An example of how SALT helps: A mother and two daughters with no support of family or friends and no shelter were living in their car. The case management team was able to help her find a job and provide a safe living place for them while she earned income to transition off the street. In the second quarter of 2025, SALT helped 99 people find long-term housing, 40 directly through their case management and 59 through partners. So far in 2025, SALT assisted 205 people into long-term housing.

Abundance Of Love provides basic supplies like toiletries and hygiene products distributed to the homeless each week who come to the SALT mobile shower unit. It may seem like a small thing, but to them it is priceless. Thank you.

Warm regards,
Jen Smith
Founder and Outreach Coordinator

AOL Calendar October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	BREAST CANCER AWARENESS Event, Anthony's Clothing, 1-3	2	3 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am	4
5	6 Everglades Mtg 10:00am	7	8 Fruitland Park Comm. Ctr Mtg 2:00pm	9	10 Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am	18
19	20 Everglades Mtg 10:00am	21	22 Fruitland Park Comm. Ctr Mtg 2:00pm	23	24 CRAFT SHOW, Laurel Manor, 9-1 (NO Big Cyp mtg)	25 GIVING CL SHOWCAS Everglades,
26	27	28	29	30	31 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am	

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 latest info on sizes needed for our items.

MOST NEEDED

- * **Craft sale items** - kitchen, seasonal, gift items, greeting cards, jewelry, aprons, bowl cozies, placemats, coaster sets, etc.
- * **Hats** - newborn (not preemie), in SOFT yarn, preferably knitted as they are generally more delicate and comfortable for babies
- * **Knitted knockers** - Sizes B, C, and D. We provide specialty yarn & stuffing.

NOT NEEDED AT THIS TIME

- * **Bags, grocery**
- * **Blankets, 14 x 14" baby**
- * **Boxes**
- * **Hats - preemie**
- * **Hats - toddler (32-peg loom)**
- * **LIFE blankets & shawls**
- * **Pattern books, knit needles, crochet hooks**
- * **Pillowcases**
- * **Pillows/cardiac** - large pillows used to cover chest

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 36 x 36". Use pastel and bright colors for children. Please see new size chart on website. No LIFE blankets.
- * **Clothing protectors**
- * **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 close.
- * **Hats** - for all ages, including preemie and newborn. No toddler size.
- * **Hats/surgical for youth** - sewn, we have kits
- * **Hearts of love** - we provide fabric, need set of 2
- * **Mats/bag** - from grocery bags made on wood looms
- * **Mittens** - for all ages
- * **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 for pattern on web.
- * **Pillows/child** - new project, contact Nancy Still
- * **Pillows/heart stress** - small hand-size for heart patients
- * **Pillows/mastectomy, heart-shaped** - for breast cancer patients
- * **Pillows/port**
- * **Prayer pockets** - sewn, pattern on web
- * **Prayer squares** - must be 4 x 5", pattern on web, cardboard templates available
- * **Prescription bottles**
- * **Scarves** - 4-5" wide, 36-50" long. *Do NOT need scarves for children.

- * **Shawls/adult** - Regular shawls. No LIFE shawls.
- * **Soap sacks** - about 4 x 5", to hold regular size soap bar
- * **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



Breast Cancer Awareness Day, 10/1/25

AOL will take part in "Breast Cancer Awareness Day" on Wed. 10/1/25 from 1-3 at Anthony's Clothing store in Colony Plaza. We will provide heart pillows, port pillow covers, chemo caps, picc line covers, and take orders for breast prostheses. Cancer survivors are welcome to be part of the fashion show parade.

Blood Drive, 10/20/25

The Big Red Bus blood mobile operated by [OneBlood.org](https://www.oneblood.org) will be at Everglades Recreation Center on Mon. 10/20/25 from 10-2 for a blood drive. We will share how to make an appointment at upcoming meetings, or you can just show up to give blood.

Craft Show, 10/24/25

Our fall craft show will be Fri. 10/24/25 from 9-1 at the Laurel Manor Rec Center. Set up 8 a.m. - if you can assist, please contact Nancy Still. Please bring your craft items to meetings. We have received requests for playing card holders, crochet stuffed animals (big sellers last year), handmade greeting cards, baby blanket sets, dog treats, and patriotic items. As you know, small inexpensive items are big sellers as well. For flyer - [CLICK HERE](#).

Giving Club Showcase, 10/25/25

AOL will have a table at The Giving Club Showcase on Sat. 10/25/25 at Everglades Rec Center from 10-2. Charitable clubs set up tables so Villagers can peruse and obtain info on clubs they may be interested in joining.

Fundraiser for AAOK, 11/8/25

As you may know, AOL often teams up with Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club (AAOK). Save the date for an AAOK fundraising event at Colony Rec Center on Sat. 11/8/25, Petrina's Outrageous Trivia show. For flyer - [CLICK HERE](#)



THIS AND THAT

Fundraiser Results

Our fundraiser on 8/31/25 organized by Van Bui-Thompson was a great success. The room was full and there was a variety of wonderful entertaining acts. They raised \$1,071 for AOL from raffle sales & donated checks, PLUS we collected **two van loads** of toiletries & non-perishable food stuffs which Jen subsequently donated to: Wildwood Food Pantry, Beyond the Walls Food Pantry, St. Theresa Catholic Church, The Rock Program for middle & high schoolers, and Lake Cares Inc.



AOL DONATIONS - SEPTEMBER 2025



Items donated: **804**

Hats now in storage: **6,027**

Grocery bag mats: **57 made & delivered** to Open Door in Mount Dora

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Fantastic projects by AOL members:



61 pumpkin & 50 candy corn preemie hats made by Jane Christensen and Sue Francis for AdventHealth neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).



Blanket by Kathy Hughes, La Hacienda



THANK YOU'S Thank You

Joselyn Burleson

(received cancer pillows & knitted knockers)

"What a wonderful gift and help for my new life adventures. I appreciate it so much and my friend Gloria for contacting you. They are perfect! The fact that they were especially made for me is just so incredible. Thank you for your help, thoughts and prayers. Maybe one day when we are in Florida to visit Gloria I can come and visit you too. Once again, thank you so much."

Joselyn Burleson

South Milwaukee Human Concerns

"Jen and your large group of stitchers and loopers who produced these wonderful gifts that Linda (Ryan) delivered to South Milwaukee Human Concerns -- We just experienced a huge flood in our storage area which depleted very many of our items that we share in our city. We are so grateful for your generosity. Thank you for being 'you and keeping y'all' together."

Love and Blessings, Elona Becker

Hope House of Milwaukee

"This note is to thank you for your recent donation of handmade items. We truly appreciate your generosity."

Your Friends at Hope House of Milwaukee

AdventHealth Orlando (received pumpkin premie hats)

"Thank you so much, the babies and nurses appreciate you!"

NICU Nurse Ceci Held

AdventHealth Waterman Hospital, Tavares

"Thank you so much for your donation of blankets and shawls to AdventHealth Waterman. They are so beautiful and it was so generous of Abundance Of Love to spend time and much care creating this handmade supply of goods. Our patients will love the warmth and comfort they provide, and it aids us in our mission to extend the healing mission of Christ. Thanks again."

St. Theresa Catholic Church, Belleview

"Thanks so much for the blankets and toiletry items. Our homeless and less fortunate really appreciate it, as does the Social Services Ministry at St. Theresa Catholic Church." God Bless, Mike

Studer Family Children's Hospital

"On behalf of the faculty and staff at Studer Family Children's Hospital, I want to thank you and everyone at Abundance Of Love for your generous donation of medical dolls and surgical hats! This means so much to us and our patients. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. Thank you again!"

Caitlin Chambliss, Child Life

Inova Fairfax Medical Campus, Virginia

(received child-size small pillows they requested)

"Everything went like hotcakes. On the prize cart... Thank you!! Love them!!! Tell your sewing crew they are wonderful."

Janice Mellette, Head Nurse



Children's of Mississippi (Hospital)

(received medical dolls)

"Thank you!!"

Amber Magee



Financials - September 2025

Beginning Balance:	\$13,386.41
Income:	2,141.00
Expenses:	<u>487.38</u>
Ending Balance:	\$15,040.03

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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