

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 - FEBRUARY 2026



Jen's Corner

The shortest month of the year, February, is packed full of holidays. We celebrate President's Day, Groundhog Day, Black History Month, Thank Your Mail Carrier Day, and my favorite, National Ice Cream Day. For Valentine's Day, shoppers are predicted to spend \$27.4 billion, \$1.7 billion on pets. About ~250 million roses will be purchased. The average American will spend \$189.

Our Abundance Of Love members don't wait for Valentine's Day to come around. We spread love throughout the year with our gifts of handcrafted items to those we will never meet.

January had some the coldest temperatures recorded, and February is likely to be much of the same. Many of our blankets, hats, and mittens have been or will be given to those living outdoors with makeshift shelters. I cannot imagine how long I could survive in those conditions. Every donated item is so appreciated.

We will continue to "spread the love." Happy Valentine's Day!

Gratefully, Jen Smith
Founder and Outreach Coordinator

AOL Calendar February 2026

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

NOTES:

- * On 2/11, the Fruitland Park meeting will begin later -- 2:15 to 2:30.
- * The 2/20 La Hacienda meeting will be at Mulberry Rec Ctr., 8445 SE 165th Mulberry Ln.

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:



- * **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

- * **7x9 Panels** - Our blanket joiners are overwhelmed with panels right now. We are looking for people who will join the panels. YouTube videos are available to learn how (search "how to join crocheted panels together," or knitted panels....)
- * **Hats - toddler** (32-peg loom)
- * **LIFE blankets & shawls**

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.
- * **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"
- * **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
- * **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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Giving Showcase 2/7/26

A Giving Club Showcase will be held on Sat. 2/7 from 10-2 at Lake Miona Rec Center. This event provides an opportunity for charity and giving clubs in our area to inform interested people about their organizations, hand out info, etc. If you can assist at our AOL table for an hour or more, please contact Jen.

Craft Sale Dates for 2026

Mark your calendar for our 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.

AOL DONATIONS - Jan. 2026

Items donated in January 2026: **1,643**



Delivery to AdventHealth Orlando on 1/28/26 by Linda Ryan & Barb Goeske

COMPLETED PROJECTS



Panel Blanket made by Louise at Everglades



Blanket by Jenny Godusky, Everglades



Crocheted toys at Everglades



Fundraiser for Service Dog

Thank you so much for your generous donations to the Layla's service dog fundraiser. Both monetary donations and items for the gift baskets were very much appreciated. The event was a huge success and over \$5,700 was raised to help pay for the special seizure training at Elite Dog Training in Orlando. Thanks to Joyce Gillette and Robin for contributing and assembling the raffled gift baskets. If anyone took pics or videos at this event, please email to Jen Smith.

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



Note from Diane Fedell re 40 hats donated by AOL Thank You

"Just wanted to let you know that my brother delivered the hats at Marion's Kitchen in Washington D.C this morning. The woman was ecstatic to receive them since it's is going to be very bad again this weekend. Some homeless person will have a nice warm hat... This is what we do and so happy to be part of it."

Diane Fedell

Cypress Care Center

"They are extraordinary! They are very well made, sturdy, and multi-textural as well as washable. I was so delighted to receive these twiddle mats for our seniors. Thank you for time, love and resources! Best wishes for the new year!"

Warm Regards, Angela Sheasley, Cypress Care Center

For Crocheted Peyton Hearts

"How can I thank you enough! These little hearts have meant so much to so many people! As I fill my baskets and explain our mission, every time it resonates with someone. I truly cannot believe how many I can distribute in one month! I will continue to give talks, about reducing the stigma of mental illness/health & simply listen to people who need to vent. That simple heart leads to many conversations. Thank you!!!"

Lyndy

Education Foundation of Lake County

"Thank you all so much for the hats & scarves for needy students! With this cold weather ahead, they are sure to use them. We have a nice selection in each of our teacher Apple-Mart stores. Thanks again!"

Stacey

Rimes Early Learning

"Thank you so much for the adorable crocheted beanie hats you made for our students. They were absolutely precious and brought so many smiles to our campus. Your time, talent, and generosity are truly appreciated, and our students will enjoy and cherish them. We are so grateful for your kindness and for thinking of our school community."

Dominique Ward, Principal

Bentley Elementary School, Sanford

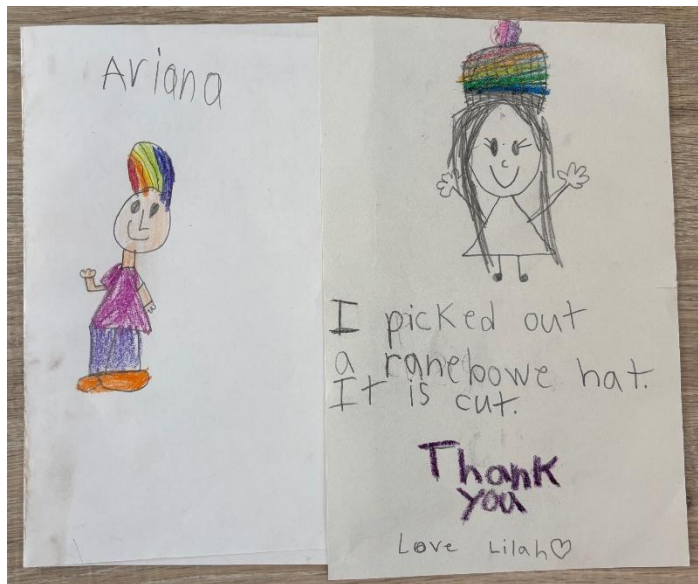
"We cannot thank you enough for the beautiful handmade hats and your generosity! We can see the love, creativity, and care that goes into each and every beautiful hat and scarf you have created for our students. Our staff, students, and our students' families are touched by your kindness each year and all of the work that goes into making each hat special. The students absolutely love the opportunity to pick out their hats, and you would be surprised by who picks what color! For many of them, it is more than a hat, and it becomes quite a prized possession and comfort item. Some students wear theirs all year long, even in 90 degree weather! Thank you again for the blessing you are to so many. Happy New Year!"

Caryn Hinrichs



School Thank You's

We received loads of very cute Thank You notes from school children where we donated hats this winter. Here's a few:



Financials - January 2026

Beginning Balance:	\$19,142.31
Income:	500.00
Expenses:	<u>759.68</u>
Ending Balance:	\$18,882.63

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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