

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 2024



Jen's Corner

A few weeks ago, I received a call from our AOL member Carol Milewski saying “I have yarn for you.” She went on to say “a lot of yarn” and indeed it was! The homeowner had passed away and the call went out to find help to empty the house. I have never understood the life of a hoarder and it was hard to imagine how one gets to that stage. The yarn was all new from Joann’s, Michaels, and Walmart and never opened. My guess is that there were perhaps 400 plus boxes piled high from floor to ceiling.

With the help of AOL members and friends, we were able to fill two loads of yarn boxes onto a 14-foot truck and take them to the newly rented storage unit. Such a huge blessing as we will not have to purchase yarn for a long, long time. Yes, we did offer yarn to other crafting groups.

Just think about how many items will be made and donated to those less fortunate. A warm hat, scarf, or pair of mittens make the world of difference to those living outside. Thank you so much for your dedication to helping make our world a better place.

Many blessings,

Jen, Founder and Outreach Coordinator



Milt Salamon, Alan Wilenken, and Carol Milewski
(Milt and Alan kindly allowed the use of their charity group truck.)

AOL Calendar

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am, Speaker: Lisa Lee fm Nicole's Hope Spruce Creek South Mtg 9:30am	2
3	4 Everglades Mtg 10:30am	5	6	7	8 Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am	9
10	11	12	13 Fruitland Park Comm. Ctr Mtg 2:00pm	14	15 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am Spruce Creek South Mtg 9:30am	16
17	18 Everglades Mtg 10:30am	19	20	21	22 Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am	23
24	25	26	27 Fruitland Park Comm. Ctr Mtg 2:00pm	28	29 La Hacienda Mtg will be held at CHULA VISTA 8:30am	30
31						

OUR PROJECTS

See our website [tvabundanceoflove](http://tvabundanceoflove.com) **Pattern Links** for all patterns.



MOST NEEDED

* **Large heart pillows** - Pattern available. These can be sewn and left unstuffed; we will have a stuffing party closer to the next delivery in April.

* **Hearts of love** - Do not pin together.

NEEDED AND ONGOING

* **Baby items** - Lightweight blankets 24 to 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** - 14" square, for babies

* **Blankets** - Patriotic lap

* **Boxes** - Medium-size

* **Clothing protectors** (adult bibs)

* **Critters** - Any animal; fabric, knit, crochet, up to 6 inches tall. No tags needed.

* **Hats CHEMO for adults only** - Pick up soft yarn at meetings.

* **Hats, scarves, headbands, and mittens, COLD WEATHER** - For teens/adults.

* **Hats, surgical for youth**

* **Hearts of love** - Fabric provided. Please do NOT pin them together.

* **Medical dolls** - Materials provided.

NOTE: Please use and follow our pattern/instructions, turning under seams & including the 3" pocket. Gown back and front patterns are different widths.

* **Panels 7 x 9"**

* **Picc line (IV) covers - For adults only** (no baby/young children sizes needed)

* **Pillowcases** - For children up to 17 years old.

* **Port pillows**

* **Prayer squares**

* **Scarves** - 4-5" wide, 36-50" long, fringe or no-fringe.

* **Shawls**

* **Soap sacks and bar soap**

NOT NEEDED

* **Toddler hats (32-peg loom)**

* **Bottle caps**

Size chart is available on [tvabundanceoflove Our Needs](#) page.

Our Charities List is linked at the bottom of this email.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Speaker at La Hacienda Mtg 3/1

Lisa Lee from Nicole's Hope will give a presentation at La Hacienda meeting on March 1 at 10 am. The organization helps children with cancer and families staying at the Ronald McDonald house in Gainesville. Lisa requested blankets for the children staying there. Ages are from infant to 18. Blankets should be "happy colors." To start, AOL will donate and Lisa will deliver 20 blankets and 40 children's hats.

Bingo Fundraiser 4/16

We will have an April fundraiser - Wine and Chocolate Bingo. It will take place at Fishhawk Rec Center on April 16 at 6pm. Bingo sheet books, each with 15 game sheets, will be sold as two books for \$15 and \$3 for each additional book. We'll also have 50/50 ticket sales. Limited seating. Game books will be on sale soon. If you are not a bingo player, please consider donating a bottle of wine or a box of chocolate for our prizes. Money from this event will help pay for our storage unit costs.

EVENT RESULTS

Channel 6 News Report about AOL: Paul Giorgio, photojournalist from WKMG



Channel 6 Orlando, visited AOL at Big Cypress on Feb. 9. He interviewed several members and the segment aired on the 5:30pm news on Thurs. Feb 22 and again on Feb. 25. Here's a link to their website with the TV video as well as a written report:

<https://www.clickorlando.com/news/local/2024/02/22/these-crafty-ladies-get-creative-for-charity/>

Giving Showcase Feb. 3: There was a good turn-out at the Giving Club Showcase at Lake Miona. We chatted with lots of interested people who will hopefully visit a future AOL meeting.



Jen Smith, Bonnie Mulneix, Kim Wojcik, Anne Williams

Feed My Starving Children Feb. 29: Thanks to all who came out to pack food on Feb 29 at Live Oaks Church. It was a great experience and many thousands of meals were packed. Donations were accepted to help pay for the food. The organizers suggested to think of the experience as a "two hour mission trip."



ZAMBIA UPDATE

On January 5, 2024, Pastor Alice set up her first table in the market to sell her loomed hats. She was proud to show her work and had many customers stop by to purchase hats. We are hopeful that Pastor Mwamba will be able to come to Orlando in March and spend a little time at one of our meetings to meet our members.

ACKNOWLEDGING ACTS OF KINDNESS CLUB FUNDRAISER

Jen Smith is giving a shout out to Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club whose mission is to promote kindness in and around The Villages and beyond. Their spring fundraiser, the Mike Palma Show, will be at Colony Cottage Rec Center on Fri. March 22 at 7pm. Mike is a comedian, ventriloquist, and magician. Tickets are just \$15. Tables set up for 8. BYOB and snacks. Open to Villages residents and their guests. Call Jen for info - 352-250-3431. [**CLICK HERE FOR FLYER**](#)



AOL DONATIONS - JAN/FEB 2024

Number of items donated in January/February: **1,999**

In storage: **1,490 hats and 273 other items**

ITEMS FOR SALE BY AOL

AOL is selling the following sewing machines and a garment steamer. If interested, please contact Jen Smith, 352-250-3431, .

Sewing Machines

Singer Simple 3221 - \$100

Brother Simplicity - \$100



Brother XL-3010 - \$50



DeLuxe Garment Steamer, Home Touch brand - \$20



THANK YOU'S



AdventHealth Children's Hospital, Orlando

"I cannot thank you and Abundance of Love enough for the AMAZING donation we received this week. Not only did we love receiving these items, but we also enjoyed being able to meet Linda and Dennis.... thank you for this generous gift. We appreciate your entire team!"

Volunteer Services Program Manager for Advent Health Children's



Debbie Spencer, Child Life Manager; Linda Ryan; Jana Mcgarvey, Volunteer Services Program Manager for AdventHealth Children's; Dennis Ryan

AdventHealth Waterman, Tavares

"Thank you so much for your very generous donation of surgical hats and medical dolls. They are absolutely adorable and will bring much joy to our young patients! Your consideration in providing these is very much appreciated and these contributions aid us in our mission to extend the healing ministry of Christ. The dolls are precious and so well received! Smiles Galore! Thank you!!"

Sincerely, AdventHealth Waterman Foundation

Bonnie Boxes

"Thank you so much for your generous donation of chemo caps. We have already included them in our Bonnie Bags."

Nancy Leary

Hope Street

"Hope Street would like to thank you for your recent in kind donation of 3 bags of knit/crochet hats and scarves. Your gift supports the growth of this organization. We are grateful for your willingness to join us in creating change."

Ashley Thomas, Expectative Director, Milwaukee, WI

Infant and Toddler Pantry

"Once more, Abundance of Love has created beautiful gifts for our babies at the Infant and Toddler Pantry.... The work is exquisite and the hand feel is soft. Please thank all those wonderful knitters on behalf of the Congregational Church."

Bonnie Pearson

St. Bruno Parish School, Dousman, WI

(Hat delivery to WI by Linda Ryan) "Thank you so very much for sharing your knitting skill with St. Bruno Parish School. The hats you sent to us with your brother Bob are really gorgeous. We will share them with students when they forget a hat, and they will receive a very special gift. I know these hats are made with love."

With appreciation, Mary MacDonald, School Principal

Trinity Springs Senior Living

"Thank you for the wonderful life blankets, shawls and prayer squares. Our residents benefit from groups like yours, we appreciate and feel blessed to be the recipient of your kind gifts."

Karin Main, Mary Templeton, Sarah Alacon, Connie Jones

Financials - February 2024

Beginning Balance:	\$4,277.88
Income:	92.00
Expenses:	798.73
Ending Balance:	\$3,571.15

A line-by-line detailed financial report is available from your group leader.

Board Members 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, 352-399-6360, virginia2villages@gmail.com
Fruitland Park Community Center - Kathy Morey, 248-214-4167, kmmonroad@gmail.com
Spruce Creek South - Lee Buckland, 352-239-8264, MLeeBuckland42@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 September 2022
Founder Jen Smith**

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1-800-HELP FLA (1-800-435-7352)

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