



Abundance Of Love

We are a volunteer organization, founded in The Villages, Florida, whose members crochet, knit, loom, and sew. We create items of comfort to distribute within our local community.

tvabundanceoflove.com

NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2026



Jen's Corner

A few weeks ago, we were notified that we would soon be charged a fee to meet at the Fruitland Park Community Center. We are so grateful for our time there and will continue to meet there through the month of September.

Starting with our first meeting in October (10/14, 2:00pm), we will meet at the Community United Methodist Church just a short distance away at 309 College Ave. The facility-use agreement runs through July 2027. In lieu of a rental fee, we are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for their food bank and a few shawls for their prayer ministry. There is plenty of parking and an elevator to the 2nd floor to meet in two adjoining meeting rooms--for both our mat makers and all other members. Once again, we are blessed to be able to continue helping so many people in our local community.

Thank you for your continued support of Abundance Of Love.

Warm regards,

Jen Smith
 Founder and Outreach Coordinator

AOL Calendar August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3 Everglades Mtg 10:00am	4	5	6	7 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am
9	10	11	12 Fruitland Park 2:00pm	13	14 Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am
16	17 Everglades Mtg 10:00am	18	19	20	21 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am
23	24	25	26 Fruitland Park 2:00pm	27	28 Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am
30	31 Everglades Mtg 10:00am				

OUR PROJECTS

[Charities List](#) link

[Patterns](#) - See "Pattern Links" page on our site tvabundanceoflove.com

[Size Chart](#) link (best sizes for our items)



MOST NEEDED

For Yarn Users:

* **Blankets** - 14x14" preemie (only for August)

- * **Blankets** - 36x36", bright colors for children
- * **Blankets/Lapghans** - Red/white/blue for veterans (see Size Chart link above)
- * **Picc line (IV) covers** - for all ages, baby to adult, knitted preferred
- * **Pillows/small** - for children, instructions on website
- * **Shawls** - lightweight
- * **Soap sacks and bar soap** - cotton yarn ONLY, use AOL patterns.

For Sewers:

- * **Eye shields** - for NICU babies, instructions on website
- * **Hearts of love**
- * **Prayer pockets** - sewn, pattern on website; kits will be available.
- * **Pillows/port covers** - kits available
- * **Walker bags** - Kits provided w/ velcro. Instructions available. Use sturdy upholstery fabric.

NOT NEEDED AT THIS TIME

- * **Blankets:** Large
- * **Buntings for babies**
- * **Hats** - toddler size (32-peg loom)
- * **LIFE blankets & shawls**
- * **Pillowcases** for children up to 17 years old. One-yard pattern on website.
- * **Twiddle mats** *However, we **DO** need items to affix to mats, such as large buttons, short 6" zippers, crochet flowers, thread spools, keys, small toys, textured items, etc.

(When mats are needed in future, mats should be ~11x16". Can use #5 bulky yarn, knit or crochet. Mats must be solid, not open weave, washable in hot water. Carefully attach items using strong thread, dental floss, or crochet cotton. NO glued-on items.)

- * **Pillows/cardiac** - no longer needed.

ONGOING

For Yarn Users:

- * **Baby sets** - Lightweight blankets ~22-24" to fit our packaging (NOT 14x14"). Use pastels, soft yarn. Hat/bootie sets to go with blankets always needed. These sets go to new moms as they leave the hospital.
 - * **Critters** - any character/animal up to 6" tall, lightly stuffed so they are "squishy." We donate to memory care facilities.
- To Amigurumi animal crafters: Bulky yarn available in a variety of colors; let us know what you need. Larger items sold really well at our craft sale; next sale is 10/9/26 Rohan Rec Center.
- * **Hats** - for all ages, but NO toddler size.
 - * **Hats/Chemo** - Directions included in each bag with yarn we provide.
 - * **Mats/bag** - from grocery bags made on wood looms

- * **Mittens** - collecting for fall
- * **Peyton Project Hearts** - No need to add tags. Find pattern on their website [HERE](#) (please make hearts the size noted in the pattern; smaller ones are unusable)
- * **Panels, 7 x 9"** - No blanket yarn please--too heavy when joined. Granny squares not needed.
- * **Prayer squares** - must be 4 x 5", patterns on web, templates available
- * **Scarves** - adult 5-6" wide x 45" long (do not need short ones for children)

For Sewers:

- * **Clothing protectors** - fabric/velcro provided
- * **Dolls, medical** - fabric kits provided
- * **Hats/surgical for youth** - fabric kits provided
- * **Pillows/mastectomy** - sew, but do not stuff

UPCOMING EVENTS



Dine to Donate Fundraiser, Prima Steakhouse - 8/11/26

On Tues. 8/11/26, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., please visit Prima Italian Steakhouse (in Brownwood) for lunch or dinner to help with our "Dine to Donate" fundraiser! Please share the details with your friends and family. How it works: when you receive your itemized bill, write Abundance Of Love on the top & tell your server you are supporting us. 20% of food proceeds that day for those noting that on their bill will come to AOL. That's it - Easy Peasy!

CLICK HERE for the 4-per-page handout that you can cut up and distribute.

Craft Sale - 10/9/26

Our fall craft sale will be Fri. 10/9/26, 9-1, at Rohan Rec Center. Craft sale items can be turned in now. Kitchen items, dish cloths, and scrubbies are needed; cotton and scrubbie yarn provided. Greeting cards and fall items such as pumpkins were a big seller last year. We look forward to your fun and unique items, as always!

Musical Fundraiser - 10/16/26

Jen has arranged a fundraiser for AOL featuring a popular Villages musical group called *Forever Young*. The event will be Fri. 10/16/26 at La Hacienda Rec

Center. Tickets are \$22. We are using a ticket purchase system thru an on-line website called Zeffy. It's easy to use; see link below to purchase tickets.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the flyer.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Zeffy website to purchase tickets.

***On Zeffy page**, click on "Add" button to start & select # of tickets, then "Continue" to payment.

Dine to Donate Fundraiser, Texas Roadhouse - 11/2/26

We'll have another Dine to Donate fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse on Monday, 11/2/26, from 5-8 p.m. Please mark your calendars!

AOL DONATIONS - July 2026



* Items donated in July: 2,968 (931 delivered to Advent Health Orlando)

* Hats to storage in July: 575, total collected to date 5,835 (next goal is 7,000)

* Red hearts (300) were made and now ready for Bless Wildwood in February - goal met!



Some of the red/white/blue mini hearts made by AOL are on display at Trinity Springs Assisted Living, Memory Care Unit.



Dennis and Linda Ryan delivered heavy weight hats and mittens to Hope House in Milwaukee, WI. They were so fortunate that Esther was there, as the office was technically closed for Juneteenth Day. Another delivery of hats and scarves went to Milwaukee Center for Independence. Both groups were extremely grateful for our gifts.



THIS AND THAT

New Location for Fruitland Park Meetings

The Fruitland Park meetings will be held at a new location beginning in October. The location is the Community United Methodist Church, 309 College Ave., Fruitland Park, Rooms 208 and 210. There is an elevator. The first meeting there will be 10/14/26.

"Plarn" Info

Our mat makers ask that you please NOT add tape to the balls of plarn (plastic bag yarn). The tape either tears the plastic or leaves a sticky residue. Thanks!

COMPLETED PROJECTS



Carol Zagrosh, Big Cypress, made this lovely hat & scarf set.



Paula Eby, Everglades, created this unique blanket.



Colorful blanket made totally with SMALL balls by Kerry Pellerin, Everglades.



Bag mat completed by Ann Lechner, Everglades - A LOT of work!



Patriotic blanket by Louise Wilson, Everglades - Happy 250th!

THANK YOU'S



Thank You

Tampa General Hospital

"Our Abundance Of Love volunteers bring so much comfort and so many smiles to the frightened and hurting little patients at Tampa General. We thank you on behalf of staff and patients for the "me" dolls and surgical caps. The dolls are an important aid in diagnosing, and the hats encourage our "kids" to feel like a member of our team. Thank you."

Carol Hansen

Peyton Heart Project

"The 1,000 hearts you sent this month were wonderful! These crocheted hearts are being found around the world and helping so many people. I am blessed, when I fill my baskets, to get the stories, the thank you's, the reason these hearts have helped. So I truly thank you for helping reduce the stigma of mental health and create a kinder world!"

Warmly, Lyndy, Board Member

Financials - July 2026

Beginning Balance:	\$18,092.88
Income:	10.00
Expenses:	<u>1,153.66</u>
Ending Balance:	\$16,949.22

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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