

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 - NOVEMBER 2025

Jen's Corner

Welcome to November. The holidays are just around the corner. Stores are decorated with trees and ornaments, and everything is shiny and bright. Over the years my Christmas décor has dwindled--no more outside lights for fear of falling off the ladder, no more reindeer with red noses brought down from the attic. Life is simpler now with just a few treasured ornaments from many of the children I cared for along the



way.

But first let's take time to celebrate Thanksgiving. I am so grateful for all of you who are like family to me. Your commitment to Abundance Of Love, crafting items of comfort for those less fortunate, allows me to have purpose in my life. We all need purpose, and while you may never meet the recipients of your donations, know that you make a difference in this world. Happy Thanksgiving!

Warm regards,
Jen Smith
Founder and Outreach Coordinator

**AOL Calendar
November 2025**

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 Comm. Ctr Mtg 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 Comm. Ctr Mtg 2:00pm	27 	28 Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am
30					

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

- * **Blankets** - large enough for an adult
- * **Blankets** - 36-40" in colors for children
- * **Hearts of love** - we provide fabric, need set of 2
- * **Pillows/mastectomy, heart-shaped** - for breast cancer patients
- * **Pillows/heart stress** - small hand-size for heart patients
- * **Soap sacks** - about 4 x 5", to hold regular size soap bar

NOT NEEDED AT THIS TIME

- * **Bags, grocery**
- * **Blankets** - 14x14" preemie
- * **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.
- * **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 turn.
- * **Hats** - for all ages, including preemie and newborn. No toddler size.
- * **Hats/surgical for youth** - sewn, we have kits
- * **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/port**
- * **Pillows/small** - for children, contact Nancy Still
- * **Prayer pockets** - sewn, pattern on web
- * **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



Sock Drive - Nov 2025

We will have our 2nd annual "DeFeet the Cold" Sock Drive in November. Socks will go to the Gateway to Hope Ministries, Lake Cares, Beyond the Walls Food Pantry, and Kids Central. Crew socks are needed for toddlers, children, and adults. White socks for males, any color for females. No low-cut socks. In addition, adult specialty socks with non-slip grippers are needed for Florida Cancer Centers. Bring to any AOL meeting in November.

Holiday Parties - Dec 2025

Each of our meeting locations will celebrate the holiday season with a potluck brunch or afternoon dessert station. Tentative dates are: La Hacienda 12/5, Fruitland Park 12/10, Big Cypress 12/12, Everglades 12/15. Members are asked to bring a small food item to share, along with a note of ingredients for those with allergies. AOL will provide paper products and beverages. We will confirm these dates in the December newsletter.

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

Mat Making

Mat makers are doing a wonderful job in making mats for the homeless. With the weather getting colder at night, they will be much appreciated. To date, 59 mats have been

made and donated. Anyone wanting to learn how to loom can contact Jen who has looms on hand at no cost to you. Instructions are available to get you started at Everglades and Fruitland Park meetings. Please let Jen Smith know you are coming.

Storage Unit Update

Since 2015, Compass Storage on Hwy 466 has generously donated a storage unit to AOL. This year it reached capacity with over 6,500 hats. Soon it will be empty! Thank you Linda and Dennis Ryan who delivered to our local schools and beyond. The yarn donated in Feb. 2023 has come to an end, and AOL will be purchasing yarn both retail and wholesale. While the amount of yarn available at meetings may be less, we will strive to offer the yarn and supplies you need.

Correspondence Contact for AOL

Reminder that we now have a correspondence contact for AOL - Kathy Hughes. If you know of a member who can use a greeting card of any kind (thinking of you, get well, sympathy, etc.), please contact Kathy. Her contact info is listed at the bottom of the newsletter.

Disposal of Old Prescriptions

FYI, you can dispose of old prescriptions at Walgreens on Bichara Blvd.

AOL DONATIONS - October 2025



Items donated: **3,798**

Total hats made so far this year: **6,572**

Hats, scarves & headbands to schools: **1,640** items delivered to 4 elementary schools so far by Linda & Dennis Ryan - to Villages, Leesburg, Wildwood, Beverly Shores. More to be delivered.



Linda with reps from Wildwood and Beverly Shores Elementary Schools.

COMPLETED PROJECTS & EVENTS

Craft Sale Results

Our craft sale fundraiser on 10/24/25 at Laurel Manor raised a "whopping" \$2,535. Huge thanks to all the volunteers who set up the sale tables and kept everything organized. Thank you to all our crafters who put time and effort into making one-of-a-kind items, super cute crochet animals, blankets, baby items, jewelry, handmade cards, kitchen cozies, coasters, aprons and so much more. Laurel Manor proved to be a great location. We will reserve a 2026 date in the same area, as well as a possible 2nd sale at a location farther south.



Chasity Boatman from the Daily Sun purchased this lovable crocheted cat toy for her son prior to our craft sale.



Patriotic Items to Vitas

Vitas Healthcare in the Lake Sumter area (providing hospice home services) has 99 veteran patients under their care. AOL members were able to provide 63 patriotic pillowcases, as well as more than 50 red, white, and blue crochet and knit blankets, hats and bandanas! A huge thank you to Bonnie Mulneix who headed up this project and all of our sewers. Items were delivered in time to present to our veterans before Veterans Day. Vitas beautifully packages items in gift bags for presentation. Thank you so much for your dedication.

Blanket by Lisa Kruchinski, Fruitland Park

Made with thin specialty yarn mixed with 4-ply.



Giving Clubs Showcase, AOL Table

Our table at the Giving Clubs Showcase on 10/25/25 at Everglades was covered with samples of our many projects. We informed attendees about our club activities. Thanks to the members who represented AOL.



THANK YOU'S Thank You

Linda and Dennis Ryan

Thank you to Linda and Dennis Ryan who continue to support AOL in so many ways. They invest much of their time in delivering our items to many organizations, some as far away as Orlando and beyond.

Tampa General Hospital

"Tampa General Hospital is very grateful for your handcrafted dolls and surgical hats. Our pediatric patients and our staff recognize the time and care put into each of these most practical and appreciated gifts. The smiles on our children's faces tell the story."

Carol Hangen, TGH Volunteer

Financials - October 2025

Beginning Balance:	\$15,040.03
Income:	3,397.00
Expenses:	<u>670.73</u>
Ending Balance:	\$17,766.30

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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