

## 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 - SEPTEMBER 2025***



### **Jen's Corner**

I am reaching out to all those creative people in our group that would love to take a break from knitting, crocheting, looming, and weaving and venture into the world of recycled and other DIY crafts in preparation for our upcoming craft show on 10/24/25.

There are literally hundreds of sites to get ideas using everything from cardboard tubes, wine bottles, mason jars, paper, yarn, fabric, paint, Styrofoam, etc. Two of my favorites are Crafts by Amanda ([craftsbyamanda.com](https://craftsbyamanda.com)) and Ruffles and Rainboots ([rufflesandrainboots.com](https://rufflesandrainboots.com)). See Better Homes and Gardens recycled crafts at [bhg.com](https://bhg.com). Hopefully we will have an entire table of unique and recycled crafts.

Happy crafting!

Warm regards,  
Jen Smith  
Founder and Outreach Coordinator

**AOL Calendar**  
**September 2025**

| Sun   | Mon                              | Tue | Wed   | Thu | Fri  |
|---|----------------------------------|-----|---|-----|--|
| 31 <b>Variety Show Fundraiser, Eisenhower Rec Ctr 6pm</b> | 1 <b>Everglades Mtg 10:00am</b>  | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5 <b>La Hacienda Mtg *at Mulberry Grove Rec Ctr 8:30am</b>     |
| 7   | 8                                | 9   | 10 <b>Fruitland Park Comm. Ctr Mtg 2:00pm</b> | 11  | 12 <b>Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am</b>                               |
| 14  | 15 <b>Everglades Mtg 10:00am</b> | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19 <b>La Hacienda Mtg *BACK to La Hacienda Rec Ctr, 8:30am</b> |
| 21  | 22                               | 23  | 24 <b>Fruitland Park Comm. Ctr Mtg 2:00pm</b> | 25  | 26 <b>Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am</b>                               |
| 28  | 29 <b>Everglades Mtg 10:00am</b> | 30  |   |     |  |

Our fundraiser is tomorrow night 8/31! No ticket needed, just bring a toiletry item for donation - see more info below!

La Hacienda meeting on 9/5 will be at Mulberry Grove Rec Center (8445 SE 165th Mulberry Ln), and the meeting on 9/19 will be back at La Hacienda Rec Center.

**OUR PROJECTS**



**Charities list:** link to [Charities List](#)

**Patterns:** link to [Patterns](#) on our website

**Size chart** - link to [Size Chart](#)

**MOST NEEDED**

- \* **Bags/grocery and plarn (plastic yarn)** - for our bag mats.
- \* **Blankets** - AOL has partnered with AdventHealth Centra Care who have a Blanket Brigade ([careblankets.org](http://careblankets.org)). They have requested adult blankets thru the end of the year and will resume again in May of 2026. Sizes are 4x5' (48x60") for adults, and 3x4' (36x48") for children. These can be made using colors that are unused for hats--Pumpkin Pie, Brown, Fern, Olive--which are Pound of Love and other 16oz skeins. Doris Hoffman will bring these to meetings and help you select contrasting colors to complete a blanket.
- \* **Boxes** - Medium and large boxes, broken down if possible
- \* **Critters** - any character/animal up to 6" tall, lightly stuffed so they are "squishy"
- \* **Hats for Schools** - Our milestone of 5,000 hats for storage has been reached and are ready to distribute as soon as the weather gets cold, usually mid-October. Last year we exceeded our goal with 7,000 hats - can we do it again? Perhaps...if we focus on hats for a few weeks in September.
- \* **Hats/Surgical for youth** - sewn, we have kits
- \* **Knitted knockers** - Sizes C and D; we have specialty yarn & stuffing
- \* **Prayer squares** - **must be 4 x 5"**, pattern on web, cardboard templates available
- \* **Twiddle mats** - using #5 bulky yarn, placemat size, knit or crochet. We need items to affix to these mats -- large buttons, thread spools, keys, small zippers, small toys, textured items-- things that can be firmly attached to the mats.

#### **NOT NEEDED AT THIS TIME**

- \* **14 x 14" baby blankets**
- \* **Blankets** - LIFE blankets and patriotic blankets (we reached our goal!)
- \* **Pattern books, knit needles, crochet hooks**
- \* **Pillows/cardiac and neck** - large pillows used to cover chest
- \* **Shawls** - LIFE shawls
- \* **Toddler hats (32-peg loom)**

#### **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.
- \* **Clothing protectors**
- \* **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)
- \* **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/mastectomy, heart-shaped** - for breast cancer patients
- \* **Pillows/port**
- \* **Prayer pockets** - sewn, pattern on web
- \* **Prescription bottles**
- \* **Scarves** - 4-5" wide, 36-50" long. \*Do NOT need scarves for children.
- \* **Shawls/adult** - just not LIFE shawls
- \* **Soap sacks** - about 4 x 5", to hold regular size soap bar

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **TOMORROW NIGHT 8/31/25 - Variety Show Fundraiser**

It's not too late to join us for our Variety Show fundraiser tomorrow evening Aug. 31,



6pm, at Eisenhower Rec Center. There's NO ticket charge but we ask you to bring a toiletry item(s) as suggested on this flyer - [CLICK HERE](#).

### **Feed My Starving Children Meal Packing, 9/11/25**

Feed My Starving Children has a few spots left to pack manna meals on Thurs. 9/11/25 from noon to 2pm at Live Oaks Church in Oxford. This is a high energy, fun event that anyone can help with. We participated last year and it is a wonderful worthwhile cause, and extremely organized. Contact Jen Smith ASAP (352-250-3431, [jpsmith5@comcast.net](mailto:jpsmith5@comcast.net)) to be added to the registration list.

### **Breast Cancer Awareness Day, 10/1/25**

AOL will take part in "Breast Cancer Awareness Day" Wed. 10/1/25 from 9-1 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. A few people are needed to monitor the table;

contact Nancy Still if you can help (301-538-3103, [NLSfree2paint@yahoo.com](mailto:NLSfree2paint@yahoo.com)).

#### **Craft Show, 10/24/25**

Our fall craft show will be held on 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. You can begin now to bring your craft show 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**

The Giving Club Showcase will be Sat. 10/25/25 at Everglades Rec Center, set up 8:30, event 9-2. Volunteers are needed to monitor the table in one-hour shifts; contact Nancy Still if you can help.

#### **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](#)

#### **Blood Drive**

The Big Red Bus will be at Big Cypress Recreation Center in October. A date is to be determined.

#### **THIS AND THAT**



**Correspondence** - We now have a Correspondence contact to send greeting cards to our members, such as get well, sympathy, thank you, etc. Her name is Kathy Hughes, 941-264-4074, [mjh3corvettes@gmail.com](mailto:mjh3corvettes@gmail.com). Please contact Kathy via txt, email, or phone if you become aware of a member who can benefit from a card on behalf of AOL. Her contact info will also be listed at the bottom of our newsletters.

**Pillow Stuffers Needed** - We need a few people to stuff cardiac pillows for our mid-September delivery to AdventHealth Orlando. Contact Jen if you can assist.

**New Pillow Project** - A group of nurses has asked us to make small pillows for young children to teens in child-friendly fabrics. If you can help, please contact Nancy Still, [NLSfree2paint@yahoo.com](mailto:NLSfree2paint@yahoo.com), 301-538-3103. We already make other pillows in various sizes so this will be a new addition.

**A few more reminders -**

- \* Please finish the items you make, esp. sewn items - cut all the strings, clip corners, iron to complete.

- \* Prayer squares must be 4x5". Pick up a cardboard template at a meeting.

- \* Follow the patterns we provide when making items. Some patterns are provided by hospitals.

**AOL DONATIONS - AUGUST 2025**



Items donated: **777**

Hats to storage: **5,000**



We collected 128 pounds of food for the Wildwood Food Pantry for their after-school snack



program. Eileen Cancellieri, volunteer at the pantry, picked up our donations. Thanks very much to all those who contributed!



Children at Cincinnati Children's Hospital are adding faces to the medical dolls we send.

### COMPLETED PROJECTS

Adorable projects by AOL members:



NICU items made by various members - so cute!



Pumpkin hats made by Sue Schwab.



Bonnie Bonniwell, Big Cypress, has been busy using the specialty & ribbon yarns.



31 baby sets are ready for delivery to AdventHealth Orlando - each bag gets a nice sticker.

## THANK YOU'S



### Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital

"We received your dolls today! Thank you so much for your kindness. We can't wait for our patients to utilize them. Our child life specialists utilize these dolls quite often when providing education to our patients involving new diagnosis education and procedural



education as well. We actually have an ambulance in our child life zone where the patients can participate in medical play!"

Paige Cos, Donation Coordinator

### **Tampa General Hospital**

"Thank you to our dear craftspeople at Abundance Of Love. Tampa General is blessed to have you support our pediatric patients in such a creative and practical way. Your donations are always cause for excitement as our staff loves your work almost as much as our



Thank You

youngsters."

Gratefully, Carol Hangen, TGH Volunteer

### **Port St. Lucie Hospital**

"I received the baby hats today. Your ladies do beautiful work. They are very much appreciated by our new moms."

Nurse Sheryl Valteau

### **Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, St. Petersburg**

"Thanks for donating the dolls to us. They are great and will get good use."

Dara Jackson, Certified Child Life Specialist



### **Financials - August 2025**

Beginning Balance: \$13,499.75

Income: 600.00

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Expenses:       | <u>713.34</u> |
| Ending Balance: | \$13,386.41   |

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](mailto:jpsmith5@comcast.net)

Big Cypress - Bonnie Mulneix, 724-283-8248, [dmulneix@comcast.net](mailto:dmulneix@comcast.net)

Everglades - Johanna Cole, 352-205-9863, [virginia2villages@gmail.com](mailto:virginia2villages@gmail.com)

Fruitland Park Community Center - Kathy Morey, 248-214-4167, [kmmonroad@gmail.com](mailto:kmmonroad@gmail.com)

Finance - Kathy Morey, 248-214-4167, [kmmonroad@gmail.com](mailto:kmmonroad@gmail.com)

Delivery and Pickup - Linda Ryan, 414-333-0776, [LRyan8643@gmail.com](mailto:LRyan8643@gmail.com)

Newsletter - Nancy Still, 301-538-3103, [NLSfree2paint@yahoo.com](mailto:NLSfree2paint@yahoo.com)

Correspondence - Kathy Hughes, 941-264-4074, [mjh3corvettes@gmail.com](mailto:mjh3corvettes@gmail.com)

**Web Site:** [tvabundanceoflove.com](http://tvabundanceoflove.com)

**Officially Established June 2020**

**Designated 501(c)(3) Non-Profit October 2024**

**Founder Jen Smith**

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

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