

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 2025



Jen's Corner

Shout out to the Friends of Sanibel led by Sherri Estrada. During this cold snap, Sherri received an urgent request from Lila and Richard Vilain, Directors of Follow the Need International (followtheneed.org). The request asked for coats, sweatshirts, hoodies, and gloves for the Benevolence Christian Care Center in Leesburg. Sherri went to work sending out an email to her group asking them to drop off items at her door. The response was incredible -- 82 coats, 9 pairs of gloves, 6 hats, 6 scarves, and 1 blanket. Another great need was monetary donations to purchase tents for the homeless in Leesburg. Yes, tents! Several were purchased thanks to a collection of \$580 from her group (see pic below). Sherri, what a wonderful feeling you and your group must have in helping so many people receive a warm coat and a place to sleep out of the frigid weather. Never underestimate the power of one! Thank you so much for your kindness.

Fondly,
Jen Smith, Founder and Outreach Coordinator

Follow-up: Sherri received this email from the Follow the Need organization....
"...I cannot thank you and your dear Friends of Sanibel!!! It was so bitter cold, as

you recall, I told you the tents were gone so quickly. Know that each tent on the second order was received, delivered, and was covered with your generous giving, Sherri! You are a true blessing. These were sent so fast, they were left in the boxes. Tell your friends it is a privilege to stand with them for those with so little."

Lila



AOL Calendar February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Giving Showca Lake Miona R and Lions Club Foc 9-5, Winn- Dix Plaza
2	3 Everglades Mtg & Bag Cutting/Plarn Making 10:00am	4	5	6	7 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am	8
9	10	11	12 Fruitland Park Comm. Ctr Mtg 2:00pm	13	14 Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am	15
16	17 Everglades Mtg & Bag Cutting/Plarn Making 10:00am	18	19	20	21 La Hacienda Mtg at Chula Vista 8:30am	22
23	24	25	26 Fruitland Park Comm. Ctr Mtg 2:00pm	27	28 Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am	

* La Hacienda meeting will be at Chula Vista Rec Ctr on 2/21/25. *

OUR PROJECTS

Patterns - see tvabundanceoflove.com **Pattern Links**

Size chart - see tvabundanceoflove.com **Our Needs**



Handmade
with
Love

Charities list - see link at end of newsletter

MOST NEEDED

- * **Picc line (IV) covers** - for children & adults, knitted
- * **Pillows, heart stress pillows for hand**
- * **Soap sacks** - use cardboard template for correct size

ON HOLD

- * **Hats/chemo** - Simply Soft yarn provided
- * **Pillowcases** - for children up to 17 years old. Cut-to-size fabric provided.
- * **Pillows** - cardiac

NEEDED AND ONGOING

NOTE: Blanket yarn is for blankets only. It is much too thick and unsuitable for baby/teen hats and scarves.

- * **Baby items** - Lightweight blankets 24-26" 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** - ALL blanket sizes needed, including LIFE blankets. Smallest is 14" square. For baby sets, 24-26". Size ~36" can be in baby colors or bright colors for children. Teen and adult sizes also needed. Pound of Love and one pound skeins are enough for blankets.
- * **Boxes** - medium and large sizes, broken down
- * **Clothing protectors**
- * **Critters** - any animal; fabric, knit, crochet, up to 6 inches tall
- * **Eye shields for NICU babies** - size 2 x 9-10". Two-sided, SOFT fabrics, sewn & turned. Top stitch only end to close. Must be dark on one side (i.e, black flannel), pretty fabric on other side.
- * **Hats/scarves/mittens** - for all ages
- * **Hats/surgical** - sewn, for youth
- * **Hearts of love** - pattern on website; materials provided.
- * **Mat making from grocery bags**

- * **Medical dolls** - all parts--doll bodies, gowns, hats. Materials provided.
- * **Panels 7 x 9"** - knitted/crocheted, any stitch pattern but not open/lacey. Cardboard templates available.
- * **Picc line (IV) covers** - for all ages, baby to adult, knitted preferred
- * **Pillows, heart stress pillows for hand**
- * **Pillows, heart-shaped/mastectomy**
- * **Pillows, neck**
- * **Pillows, port**
- * **Prayer pockets** - sewn, pattern on web
- * **Prayer squares** - cardboard templates available
- * **Prescription bottles** - see-through only, labels removed
- * **Scarves** - 4-5" wide, 36-50" long, fringe or no-fringe
- * **Shawls** - including LIFE shawls
- * **Soap sacks** - cardboard templates available
- * **Toiletries** - small travel size

NOT NEEDED

- * **Grocery bags** - we now have thousands to use in bag mat making. For now, please recycle them--we will let you know when we need more. Note we cannot use newspaper bags or any other kinds of plastic for bag mats. If you would like to help cut bags or make plastic yarn (plarn), we will show you how.
- * **Toddler hats (32-peg loom)**
- * **Bottle caps**

WHAT'S COMING UP?



Giving Showcase 2/1

AOL will sponsor a table at the Villages Giving Showcase on Sat. 2/1 from 10-2 at Lake Miona Rec Center. Charitable clubs in the Villages will have tables to provide info to residents.

Food Drive by Lions Club 2/1

The Lions Club is sponsoring a food drive at the Winn-Dixie on Sat. 2/1 from 9-5 at the Winn-Dixie at Pinellas Plaza. [**CLICK HERE**](#) to see a flyer.

AOL Craft Sale 3/28

AOL is having a fundraising craft sale on Fri. 3/28/25 from 9-1 at Laurel Manor Rec Center. Please start making items now, but keep them at home until 3/1, then bring to an AOL meeting. We have craft sale info postcards for distribution; please pick them up from Nancy Still at a meeting.

Entertainment Fundraiser 6/4

AOL will hold a fundraiser on 6/4/25 hosted by Van Bui-Thompson's entertainment group. Please save the date. It will be at the Colony Cottage Rec Center; doors open at 5:30, show is 6-8:30pm. AOL will sell tickets, and all proceeds will go to AOL. More details will be announced in the April newsletter.

Knit in Public Day 6/8

AOL will host an "International Knit in Public Day" on Sun. 6/8/25 from 9-noon at Spanish Springs Town Square. Please bring a chair and a project to work on. [CLICK HERE](#) for a flyer (2 per page); please distribute. Thanks!

THIS AND THAT



Mat Making

AOL Mat Makers meet at our Fruitland Park Community Center meeting the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 2pm. Instructors will be there with directions on how to make a loom at home or you can order one from the Wildwood Woodshop (we will give you info on how to order). Our instructors can show you how to set up the loom, weaving techniques, how to finish the mat and attach straps. Learn the process of cutting up grocery bags and making plastic yarn (plarn). Our meetings within the Villages at 3 other locations will have bags available to cut and make plarn. Please bring your own scissors marked with your name.

New Recycling Project

We are making a difference in recycling grocery bags for mat making and keeping them out of the landfill. If you LOVE to recycle, please reach out to Jen at jpsmith5@comcast.net to find out more about a possible new recycling

project. Two people are needed.

Your Change Changed Lives!

Abundance Of Love and Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club together collected \$525 in pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters! Donation was made to Feed My Starving Children on Jan 15th at the mobile packing station at Live Oaks Church. The impact--our donation buys 1,658 meals that will feed 4 children a daily meal for one year! Thank you all for making a difference.

Feed My Starving Children Event

Several AOL members volunteered at the Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) event at Live Oaks Church on 1/15/24, where they assisted with packing nutritional items for distribution around the world.



AOL DONATIONS - JANUARY 2025



Items donated in Jan.: **1,304**

Hats to storage: **775**

Website visits in Jan.: **1,200**

THANK YOU'S



Hope Street Ministry, Milwaukee, WI

We received a lovely thank you card from this organization with numerous signatures/notes from their volunteers. We sent a load of our heavier hats to them. Here's a pic of the note cover:



Lake Panasoffkee Elementary School

"Thank you so much for your beautiful scarves and hats. With your donation we were able to give all the students at Lake Panasoffkee a warm hat or scarf. Thank you again for your generosity."

Laidi Sherman

St. Theresa Catholic Church, Belleview

"I work at St. Theresa in the Social Services office. I just wanted to send a quick note of thanks for supplying this Ministry with hats, scarves, mittens, blankets and shawls and soap sacks. Our guests are always thankful when they receive one or more of these items." Donna

Tampa General Hospital

"Tampa General Pediatrics is delighted with your donation of surgical caps and "me" dolls. They serve such a needed purpose as well as thrilling our youngsters. Yours are a most appreciated set of gifts."

Carol Hanger, TGH Volunteer

Financials - January 2025

Beginning Balance:	\$5,877.88
Income:	190.00
Expenses:	<u>139.92</u>
Ending Balance:	\$5,927.96

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

Web Site: tvabundanceoflove.com

Charities We Support

Officially Established June 2020
Designated 501(c)(3) Non-Profit October 2024
Founder Jen Smith

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