



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.

tvabundanceof[love.com](https://www.tvabundanceoflove.com)

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2026



Jen's Corner

This month I am reaching out to our blanket makers (blanketeers) to thank you for so many wonderful blankets; we received more in the last few months than ever before. We are able to supply Vitas Home Health, AdventHealth Hospitals, Trinity Assisted living, Waterman Hospital, and Freedom Point Rehab.

Now we are part of AdventHealth Centra Care's Blanket Brigade. This charity prefers blankets in smaller sizes (3x4', 4x5' and 4x6'). Started in 2025 by Shannon Sayre, thousands of blankets are being distributed all over Florida to those in need. Sharon says "we understand the importance of providing comfort and care--especially during the colder months. It is not hard to remember January 20, 2025, when the Governor declared a state of emergency due to the cold. That is why we have launched [careblankets.org](https://www.careblankets.org), a community driven initiative designed to bring warmth to those in need through the power of generosity and creativity." View the video to see an additional benefit to you while helping others.

Your grandmother's favorite hobby may be one of the most powerful brain protection tools ever studied. Researchers found that people over 60 who regularly knitted, crocheted, or did similar activities had significantly lower rates of cognitive

decline. In some, dementia risk dropped by nearly half when compared to non-crafters--the benefit compounded over time. The longer you do it, the more cognitive reserves you build.

If you have access to Facebook, click the link to see the video.

CLICK

HERE: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1LUH9kqWKr/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Warm regards,

Jen Smith

Founder and Outreach Coordinator

AOL Calendar September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3	4 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am
6	7 Everglades Mtg 10:00am	8	9 Fruitland Park 2:00pm	10 Feed My Starving Children Event 12-2	11 Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am
13	14	15	16	17	18 La Hacienda Mtg 8:30am
20	21 Everglades Mtg 10:00am	22	23 Fruitland Park 2:00pm	24	25 Big Cypress Mtg 9:00am
27	28	29	30		

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:

- * **Bar soap**
- * **Hats** - for all ages, but NO toddler size
- * **Picc line (IV) covers** - for baby to adult, knitted preferred
- * **Twiddle mats** -
Mats - Mats that work best are crocheted, size 11 x 16". Mats must be solid, not open weave, washable in hot water.
- Items for Mats - Suggested items to donate for mats: large buttons, short 6" zippers, crochet flowers, thread spools, keys, small toys, textured items, etc.

For Sewers:

- * **Clothing protectors** - fabric/velcro provided
- * **Eye shields** - for NICU babies, instructions on website
- * **Hearts of love**
- * **Pillowcases** - for children up to 17 years old. One-yard pattern on website.
- * **Pillows/small** - for children, instructions on website
- * **Port cover pillows** - kits available
- * **Prayer pockets** - sewn, pattern on website; kits will be available.

NOT NEEDED

- * **Blankets** - 14x14" preemie (we met our goal of 300)
- * **Buntings for babies**
- * **Hats** - toddler size (32-peg loom)
- * **LIFE blankets & shawls**
- * **Pillows/cardiac** - no longer making.

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.
- * **Blankets** - Large, 36x36" bright colors for children, lapghans

- * **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/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](#)
- * **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)
- * **Shawls** - lightweight
- * **Soap sacks and bar soap** - cotton yarn ONLY, use AOL patterns
- For Sewers:**
- * **Dolls, medical** - fabric kits provided
- * **Hats/surgical for youth** - fabric kits provided
- * **Walker bags** - Instructions available. Use sturdy upholstery fabric.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Craft Sale - 10/9/26

Our fall craft sale will be Fri. 10/9/26, 9-1, at Rohan Rec Center; set-up is at 8:30. Craft sale items can be turned in thru 10/2. 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.

If you can assist at our craft sale, please contact Jen Smith, jpsmith5@comcast.net. We always want our members to monitor the tables, and we think this sale will have LOTS of tables!

Musical Fundraiser - 10/16/26

Our fundraiser in October will feature 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 small 2/per page 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.

Giving Showcase - 10/24/26

The next Giving Club Showcase will be Sat. 10/24/26, 10-2, at Everglades Rec Ctr. This is a regular event held so charity/giving clubs can host a table to tell residents about their club. If you can assist by monitoring our table for an hour, contact Jen Smith, jpsmith5@comcast.net.

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

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

AOL DONATIONS - August 2026



* Items donated in August: 1,037

* Hats to storage in August: 595, total collected to date 6,430 (next goal is 7,000)

Grocery Bag Mat Makers have made 121 mats! 7 mats were also made by Wildwood United Methodist Church, and all were delivered to Lake Cares in Mount Dora. They were so very grateful for the donation along with soap sacks and toiletries.

The Abundance Of Love list of charities we serve keeps growing! Our newest recipient Little Blessings Day Care on Rolling Acres Road will start receiving infant, toddler, and preschool hats in the fall.

Linda Ryan and Deb Mehr delivered 1,000 items to AdventHealth Orlando on

8/4/26. Jana McGarvey, our hospital rep on the right, accepted our many bags.



THIS AND THAT

Crochet Items From Colman

Justin Martin, Recreation Director, and Drew Moore, from the Federal Correctional Complex Coleman visited the Everglades meeting on 8/17/26. They brought along crochet projects made by inmates -- 20 panels, 15 hats, and some really creative stuffed toys. Many of the men took a crochet class as beginners and now crochet the items that are donated back to AOL.



[Dine to Donate Results](#)

We made \$566 thru the Prima Italian Steakhouse Dine to Donate Event! They counted 70 food receipts marked with AOL. Bonnie accepted the initial check from Natalie Alrefai, and we subsequently received additional money from friends of AOL who ate there. This was a great worthwhile fundraiser and we plan to arrange more in the future.



[New Location for Fruitland Park Meetings](#)

The Fruitland Park meetings will be held at a new location beginning in October--the Community United Methodist Church, 309 College Ave., Fruitland Park. There is lots of parking, and an elevator as we will meet in 2 rooms upstairs. The first meeting at the church will be 10/14/26.

In lieu of paying a rental fee, we are asked to bring non-perishable food items for the food bank. The link below lists items they always need--donating 1 or 2 items is plenty. Abundance Of Love treasury will fund \$100 worth of items as the first donation.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

[CLICK HERE](#) - **LIST OF NEEDED FOOD PANTRY ITEMS**

Project Reminders

* Read Instructions - Please follow the project instructions. For instance, if seams are noted to be 1/4", then that works best. Although you may not feel these are important instructions, they are time-tested. If you make large seams, for instance in doll gowns, the gown doesn't fit the doll. Similarly with youth surgical hats--if you sew a very large casing, the hat will not fit a young child; the casing only needs to be slightly larger than the width of elastic. Following the instructions will help us provide quality donations we are known for.

* Stuffing - if you end up with leftover stuffing after completion of a project, please return to your group leader. We can always use it, even small quantities, and it's costly.

COMPLETED PROJECTS





Veronica Dickerson, Big Cypress, made this thick crocheted baby mat & accompanying block toys using super bulky yarn



Beverly Dwyer, Big Cypress, makes the cutest seasonal hats, like pumpkins!



Another fantastic blanket made with small balls by Carol Douton, La Hacienda



Kerry Pellerin, Big Cypress - her heart blanket is a creative use of small balls.



Lovely shawl by Nancy Rausch,
Big Cypress



Fun hat/scarf set using an interesting
"puffy" yarn mixed with black
by Judy Scher, Big Cypress



Cozy shawl by Ann Lucas & beautiful blankets by Paula Eby, Everglades



Cozy shawl by Ann Lucas & beautiful blankets by Paula Eby, Everglades

THANK YOU'S



Thank You

AdventHealth for Children, Orlando (dog bandanas)

"Thank you so much! We so appreciate you and your time for working on these!"
Elizabeth Webb, Child Life Facility Dog Handler

Cornerstone Hospice

"I hit the jackpot! Thank you so much ladies for the items for our patients. These will go to patients in the hospice houses and in their homes. Thank you ...!"

Angela Burrows, Volunteer Coordinator

Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida

"I just wanted to reach out and thank you for this delivery of surgical hats! We greatly appreciate it."

Savanna Sitter

Inova Fairfax Hospital (small pillows)

"Got the pillows. Thank you. We LOVE THEM! The kids LOVE THEM! They go like hot cakes."

Janice Mellette

Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa

"Thank you for your generous gift to Moffitt Cancer Center. Because of you, we are making meaningful progress in the fight against cancer every day. You are an important part of our mission, and we could not do it without you. We hope you take pride in the difference you are making in so many lives."

Maria Muller, President, Moffitt Center Foundation

Niswonger Children's Hospital

"We are excited to have (dolls)! Thank you so much for remembering us!"

Holly Rinehart

Peyton Heart Project

"Wow, once again, another 766 crocheted hearts for the Peyton Heart Project! We cannot thank you enough We appreciate every single heart. This week I have filled up Wedgewood Starbucks baskets 3 times. As I was refilling this morning, 2 teenagers from Virginia came by, read the mission statement... they both started to tear and asked me to begin this in Virginia. This is one of the reasons I will never stop."

Thank you ALL. Lyndy

Financials - August 2026

Beginning Balance:	\$16,949.22
Income:	1,718.67
Expenses:	<u>866.37</u>
Ending Balance:	\$17,801.52

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](tel:352-250-3431), jpsmith5@comcast.net
 Big Cypress - Bonnie Mulneix, [724-283-8248](tel:724-283-8248), dmulneix@comcast.net
 Everglades - Johanna Cole, [352-205-9863](tel:352-205-9863), virginia2villages@gmail.com
 Fruitland Park Community Center - Kathy Morey, [248-214-4167](tel:248-214-4167), kmmonroad@gmail.com
 Finance - Kathy Morey, [248-214-4167](tel:248-214-4167), kmmonroad@gmail.com
 Delivery and Pickup - Linda Ryan, [414-333-0776](tel:414-333-0776), LRyan8643@gmail.com
 Newsletter - Nancy Still, [301-538-3103](tel:301-538-3103), NLSfree2paint@yahoo.com
 Correspondence - Kathy Hughes, [941-264-4074](tel: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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