



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Thanks to our amazing partners, enthusiastic members and hundreds of talented and willing volunteers, we accomplished an ambitious agenda during the past year.



- In partnership with **Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity**, 100 volunteers painted eight need-based homes for free in one day during **Paint Your Heart Out Punta Gorda**. **page 2**
- Through a long-standing partnership with the **City of Punta Gorda**, our third and largest community garden is under construction at the **History Park** on Shreve Street. Eight school gardens are also flourishing! These programs are supported by funding from **The Mosaic Company**. **page 2**
- The **Bicycle Loaner Program** fleet went through a major upgrade, and by the end of January 2016, all 44 yellow bikes will have been replaced. All of our **Beautiful Bikes in Paradise** are being replaced with hand-painted bicycles; each is a exceptional work of art. **page 2**
- TEAM and the **Isles Yacht Club** hosted an unprecedented 642 cyclists for the **6th Annual Pedal & Play in Paradise** ride and fundraiser, raising \$5,660 for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, as well as additional funds for our bicycle initiatives. **page 3**
- The TEAM Maritime Committee is launching a harbor conservation education project called **Trails That Teach**, thanks to a grant from the **Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program**. The program is a collaboration with Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (**CHEC**) and **The Nature Conservancy**. **page 3**
- At the request of City Council, TEAM developed a detailed plan outlining how Punta Gorda might become a **Bicycle Friendly Community**. The plan details how we will move forward with determination to make our community safer and more convenient for bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists. Thanks to a grant from the **Charlotte Community Foundation**, we are installing new “way finder” signs along the **Punta Gorda Pathways**, and putting in place a public safety education program and website called **Share the Lane**. **page 3**
- The TEAM office moved to a new home at the **Charlotte Community Foundation**, providing the opportunity for our volunteers to have the space needed to work together. Our working space increased four-fold, yet the increase in cost was minimal thanks to the Foundation’s generosity.

Volunteers & Business Partners Paint Their Hearts Out in Punta Gorda, Again

In April, TEAM and **Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity** joined forces for the second time to paint — for free — the homes of eight local residents in need of a helping hand, using the services of 100 volunteers. Local businesses, builders, and tradesmen not only donated funding, but many also provided on-site supervision and painting manpower. We believe that this project does more than paint homes, it sends a message of pride, and helps to build a long lasting sense of community spirit. The TEAM **Beautification Committee** orchestrated the landscaping assistance and home owners received stylish new mailboxes painted by local artists.



Two More School Gardens are Completed & Our Largest Community Garden is Underway

Dozens of volunteers last year helped create new gardens at Sallie Jones and Neil Armstrong elementary schools, thanks to a grant from **The Mosaic Company**. TEAM also helped Charlotte High School plant sustainable native plants in their courtyard and installed plant pyramids at L.A. Ainger Middle School. Provisions were also made to further support the garden at Peace River Elementary. Work has begun with the **Real World Kids Program**, a special education program located in Murdock at the **Charlotte Technical Center**. Through a long-standing partnership with the City of Punta Gorda, our third and largest community garden is under construction at the History Park on Shreve Street. This garden will be managed in collaboration with the **Punta Gorda Historical Society** which operates the History Park.



"We thoroughly enjoyed riding bikes on a recent visit. Looking forward to more excursions and explorations when we are down on a more permanent basis!"
— The Markowitzs

Beautiful Bikes in Paradise Become Artistic Creations as the Yellow Bicycle Loaner Program Fleet Gets a Facelift

TEAM's **Beautification Committee** sprinkled the town last year with gaily painted bicycles brimming with flowers. Those bikes will soon be transformed into exceptional works of art as individual bikes are painted by local artists into a creative reflection of Punta Gorda's prolific artistic talents. TEAM's **Bicycle Loaner Program** is on a roll! By the end of January 2016, all of the yellow bikes will have been replaced and new sponsor placards will be installed. The Bicycle Loaner Program drew 5,000 riders in 2015, many of whom were not local residents. This program represents yet another partnership with the **City of Punta Gorda** and the six host locations that operate the program. There are more details on TEAM's website: www.teampuntagorda.org.



350 TEAM volunteers, members, and supporters exchanged ideas at five 2015 MIXERS

Thanks to our gracious hosts: The Captain's Table, Sheraton Four Points Tiki Hut, Fat Point Brewing, Hurricane Charley's Raw Bar & Grill, and the Punta Gorda History Park.

Pedal & Play in Paradise Attracts Hundreds of Riders for a Worthy Cause

TEAM had a tremendously successful 2015 **Pedal & Play in Paradise** this year. The TEAM and Isles Yacht Club collaborative event raised more than \$9,000 for the **Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS)** and TEAM's **Bicycle Friendly Community** initiatives. A record breaking 642 riders had loads of fun as they explored Punta Gorda via bicycle routes ranging from 8 miles to 62 miles. The Murder Mystery Tour had riders searching for the perpetrator "who done it" to Ponce de Leon. Thanks go out to the hundreds of volunteers, businesses, and City partners who participated.



Maritime Committee Outreach Programs Draw Boaters and Promote Harbor Conservation

TEAM is committed to supporting Charlotte Harbor conservation and the thoughtful development of the Punta Gorda waterfront.

Our **Maritime Committee** has been proactive; encouraging the enjoyment and protection of the waterfront by residents, visitors, and boaters alike. They have distributed welcome packages and sent eBlasts to Florida boating and yachting clubs to promote the

City as a waterfront destination while providing volunteers for several events including The Bait & Tackle Shop Kids Fishing Tournament, Dragon Boat Festival, Nature Conservancy's oyster reef installation, and CHEC Fishing Clinics. Coming soon is **Trails That Teach**, a harbor conservation education project, thanks to a grant from the **Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program**. Interpretive signs describing Harbor ecology will be developed for the **Punta Gorda Harborwalk** in partnership with the **Nature Conservancy** and the **Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center**.

Bicycle Friendly Initiative Develops "Share the Lane" Education Program

At the request of Punta Gorda City Council, TEAM has developed a comprehensive plan outlining how we might become a **Bicycle Friendly Community**. Volunteers are launching a **Share the Lane** public education program and website that is funded with a grant from the Charlotte Community Foundation and is designed to educate cyclists, pedestrians, and motorists to co-exist safely. Punta Gorda's **Bicycle Friendly Initiative** is designed to promote smart cycling and nurture cycling as a healthy, enjoyable pastime. Many public and private partners are working toward

the same goals: the **Share the Lane** campaign, special events, and cost effective infrastructure improvements throughout the city.

Share the Lane



2016 Special Events

February 23 rd	TEAM Mixer @The Torch
February 27 th	Paint Your Heart Out
March 19 th	Annual Golf Tournament
April 1 st & 2 nd	Pedal & Play in Paradise

TEAM Leadership Reflects on 2015

Shelly Harris, President: It is most gratifying to review the 2015 accomplishments of our dedicated and talented volunteers, great leaders, and the organizations we collaborate with. Our generous sponsors and all who donate to TEAM make it happen. Thank you all! Giving of oneself is an outward expression of gratitude. It is a privilege.



Nancy Johnson, CEO: It has been an amazing and productive year for TEAM Punta Gorda. 2015 has seen greater volunteer interaction and spirit than ever before with 456 volunteers that gave their time to our projects or leadership last year. Some helped for a day and others gave large amounts of their time and talent. It is a their efforts that make it all happen!



Sandy Dressler, COO: What a wonderful first year as COO! I never realized what a great organization TEAM Punta Gorda was until I began working with our truly exceptional volunteers. TEAM makes a difference in Punta Gorda and I consider it a privilege to be a part of it. I encourage all of you to get involved. I like to say, "Those who can, **do**. Those who can do more, **volunteer**."

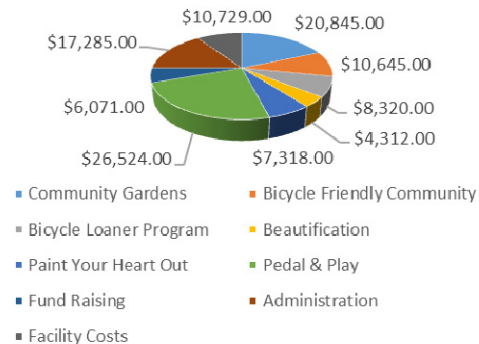


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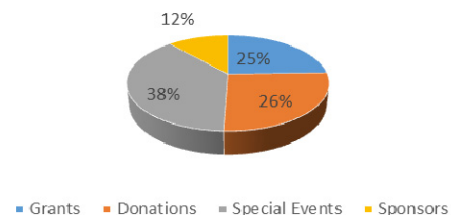
2015 Expenditures Total: \$112,049



Meet Our 2015 Sponsors



2015 Funding



227 Sullivan Street, Suite 214 • Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: 941-637-8326 • Fax: 941-639-7498
www.teampuntagorda.org