

2021 ANNUAL REVIEW



Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and financial supporters, TEAM prospered in a challenging environment. We continue to partner with the public and private sector to help make our special community an even better place to live, work and play.

- Our city's downtown is adorned with even more hanging baskets and planters, thanks to the creative efforts of *Punta Gorda in Bloom* volunteers and benefactors Alan and Barb Schulman.
- TEAM collaborated with the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association to host a "One Charlotte, One Water" symposium, which introduced Brandon Moody, the county's new Water Quality Manager.
- In partnership with Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity, TEAM volunteers completed their fifth new home for a deserving Punta Gorda family. This was Habitat's 500th build in the county.
- In collaboration with Peace River Community Housing Project, volunteers painted a home in Port Charlotte and then another owned by the Punta Gorda Housing Authority, both then leased to a homeless veteran. Volunteers then painted the Cigar Cottage at the Punta Gorda History Park.
- In partnership with the City of Punta Gorda, TEAM's free loaner bicycles are available at four locations, including the Marriott Springhill Suites. Ridership has returned to 2019 levels.
- The sixth season of the History Park Organic Community Garden saw all plots fully subscribed. The community schools garden program provided supplies for the kitchen garden at Crossroads Hope Academy and the Charlotte Middle School.
- The City of Punta Gorda moved forward with its new Citywide Master Plan, formally accepted by the City Council in November of 2020. TEAM continues to be involved, facilitating citizen engagement and education when needed.
- Pedal and Play in Paradise, Punta Gorda's premier biking event, reinvented itself for 2021 as "Build A Bike, Win A Bike," a fun biking "treasure" hunt held during the first two weeks of March.
- Volunteers staged a drive-through food drive for the St. Vincent de Paul pantry in April and another for the First Macedonia MB Church pantry in November.
- Operating expenses were offset significantly by the Fifteenth Annual TEAM Golf Scramble at St. Andrews South Golf Club and by TEAM's first online auction held in November.
- We celebrate our new and long time Platinum, Gold and Silver sponsors, and generous donations from our 2021 ***Friends of TEAM***. You will find them highlighted on our website.



Punta Gorda is Blooming! 2021 America in Bloom National Contest Winner

Punta Gorda in Bloom (PGIB), initiated in 2020, completed Phase II with the beautification of stretches of Taylor Street and Marion Avenue. The committee, chaired by Richard Polk (pictured right with benefactor Alan Schulman) won the America in Bloom national video contest, thanks to Bruce Tompkins' creative "Punta Pots." The prize was \$1,500 and bragging rights. Bloom volunteers capped off the year by installing hundreds of poinsettias adorned with lights for the city's Christmas display, also filmed by Tompkins.



The completion of Bloom's Phase I project was celebrated earlier in the spring with a ribbon cutting sponsored by the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce.

Left: Richard Polk, Barbara and Alan Schulman (center) and many of the Bloom volunteers celebrate completion of Phase I.



TEAM Helps Build the 500th Habitat Home

Working with Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity subcontractors, volunteers again pitched in to expand affordable housing in our community. The spring of 2021 saw the completion of TEAM's fifth build in Punta Gorda, pictured to the right. This build was a milestone for Habitat, having completed its 500th home. TEAM's CEO Nancy Johnson said, "If organizations had best friends, TEAM Punta Gorda and Charlotte County Habitat would be best friends for sure!"



Successful Food Drives Help The Hungry

TEAM volunteers answered the call twice in 2021 to help restock pantries at St. Vincent de Paul and the First Macedonia MB Church in Punta Gorda. These two pantries distribute thousands of pounds of food and sundries to those in need in our community. Several truck loads were collected. Many thanks to those who staged the events, to our donors and to the Charlotte Community Foundation for hosting.



Learn more about TEAM initiatives at www.teampuntagorda.org. Find the QR code link on page 4.



Bike Loaner Program on a Roll

In partnership with the City of Punta Gorda and with the support of generous individual bike sponsors and this year's Build A Bike event, the free bike loaner program served well over 5,000 riders with 30 bikes strategically located at four Punta Gorda locations stations: Four Points Sheraton, Bayfront Wellness, Laishley Marina and Marriott Springhill Suites. Eight new bikes were expected at Four Points in December. When renovations are completed at the Fisherman's Village Harbormaster's office, bikes in storage will be relocated there. The TEAM volunteer maintenance staff and partners at ACME Bicycle Shop keep the bikes in excellent condition. Want to sponsor a bike? Learn more on our website.



Painted Their Hearts Out for Military Veterans

In a new twist on TEAM's Paint Your Heart Out program, volunteers painted two homes earmarked for homeless veteran tenants. One is owned and managed by the Punta Gorda Housing Authority. The other, located in Port Charlotte, is managed by the Gulf Coast Partnership. This project is an initiative of PORCH (Peace River Community Housing Partners). Funding was provided by Charlotte State Bank and Trust.

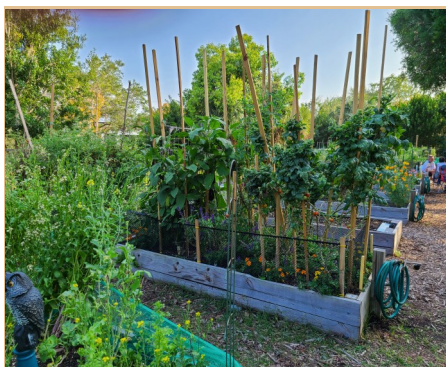


The Punta Gorda Rotary Club (gathered under the car port) painted the Conway Boulevard house in Port Charlotte. Chair Barry Simescu and volunteers from Michigan (right) painted the house in Punta Gorda.



Historic Cigar Cottage Gets a Facelift

On short notice, volunteers from TEAM and the PG Rotary Club collaborated with the Punta Gorda Historical Society to paint the historic cigar house at the History Park, built circa 1893. This was a critical intervention before the heat of summer took its toll on this special property. The City appreciated their efforts. See who was there in the artistic photos taken by volunteer Jim Austin on the TEAM website.



Community and School Gardens

TEAM'S community and school gardens continue to thrive. The organic History Park garden was refurbished, spruced up and opened for its sixth season in September. School Gardens committee worked with the Charlotte High Student Government Association planting vegetables and flowers at the park. All 92 plots are fully subscribed and there is a waiting list. This year saw the addition of milkweed plants at the front of the garden, where they continue to draw Monarch butterflies. School garden committee is working with Hope Crossroads Academy and Charlotte Middle School to provide supplies for their gardens.

TEAM depends upon corporate sponsorships, grants, event sponsors, Friends of TEAM annual donations and contributions from individuals like you. Your support is appreciated.



Reflections on 2021 and the Future Ahead for our Special Community

CEO Nancy Johnson

As we roll into the new year with optimism, we are grateful to live in such a special place. We see a bright future for our community and look forward to being a participant. We thank our many volunteers and marvel at the successful projects they were able to accomplish in 2021 under challenging circumstances.

Many exciting projects and events are planned for 2022. We will focus on affordable housing through service projects such as TEAM Builds. We will reach out to help those in need with food drives. We'll continue to work on community improvement through Punta Gorda in Bloom and Paint Your Heart Out. Our signature programs such as Bicycle Loaner Program and Community Gardens continue to demonstrate what volunteers can accomplish. Special events such as Pedal and Play and our annual Golf Scramble bring us all together.

We welcome your participation in any capacity. Reach out to our office at 941-637-8326 or email team@teampuntagorda.org. Please visit our website at www.teampuntagorda.org to learn about the many initiatives and projects we sponsor to help make Punta Gorda an even better place to live, work and play.



TEAM Board President Sandy Dressler

2021 was once again a challenge, but we did it. We kept most of our programs moving forward with creative, safe twists. We even initiated a few new projects. The key to our success rests in our volunteers. They embody the spirit of greatness by saying "Yes I can and will." I am looking forward to 2022. I invite you to join us as a volunteer. Learn more by visiting our website using the QR code provided below.

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Build A Bike, Win A Bike: An Inventive Pedal and Play Alternative

"Fun, good exercise, and a nice way to explore different parts of Punta Gorda," commented one participant about the March 2021 event, created as an alternative to TEAM's highly successful annual bicycle outing, *Pedal and Play in Paradise*. There were 128 riders who searched for hidden bike parts, recording their locations on the entry form. A virtual raffle was held at the conclusion of the two-week event. The lucky grand prize winner took home a new "Townie" bike. Proceeds were used to upgrade TEAM's bicycle loaner fleet.

Punta Gorda's Premier Cycling Event Returns March 26, 2022

The purpose of Pedal and Play in Paradise is to stage a fun, entertaining community event for cyclists of all skill levels while providing financial support for TEAM's bicycle friendly initiatives.

www.pedalandplayinparadise.com.



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