2022 ANNUAL REVIEW

TEAM PuntaGorda
Volunteers For A Better Community

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and financial supporters, TEAM prospered in a year of unique opportunities and challenges. We continue to partner with the public and private sectors to help make our wonderful community an even better place to live, work and play.

- America in Bloom awarded TEAM Punta Gorda its 2022 "Best City" accolade for the City of Punta Gorda at its national symposium in September. This award is bestowed only once to a municipality in its respective population category. A second award for outstanding "*community involvement"* was icing on the cake.

- TEAM helped to facilitate the COADFL response to Hurricane Ian. Partnering with the Charlotte Community Foundation, the United Way, and Gulf Coast Partnership, a volunteer reception center was operating within days to support countywide agencies providing essential hurricane disaster services. Hundreds of volunteers were placed where needed in record time.

- TEAM volunteers painted a Punta Gorda Housing Authority owned home which was then leased to a qualified low-income family. The following week, TEAM volunteers gave the City of Punta Gorda's Bayfront Center a much-needed facelift.

- Pedal and Play in Paradise, Punta Gorda's premier biking event, welcomed more than 400 riders in grand fashion after a two-year pandemic break. Exciting plans are underway for the March 2023 event. TEAM's year-round free loaner bicycles are available at three strategic locations.

- TEAM assisted the PicklePlex board and volunteers in their development of a strategic plan. This capable board is moving quickly to implement the expansion of the PicklePlex project.

- The fully subscribed seventh season of the History Park Organic Community Garden is up and running thanks to the "all-hands-on-deck" debris removal efforts of dozens of volunteers following Hurricane Ian. TEAM and Happy Hour Marketplace volunteers participated in the reclamation of an old community garden near the Blanchard House Museum.

- TEAM facilitated the Charlotte Harbor "Clean Water" project by convening government officials and community leaders involved in the health of this critical asset. The objective is to identify current efforts to improve water quality and develop new projects that involve the community. TEAM has also been convening historic preservation groups and community leaders to discuss plans for the future of the historic Freeman House, the gateway to our city.

America in Bloom Awards TEAM "Best City" Accolade for the City of Punta Gorda

America in Bloom awarded TEAM Punta Gorda its 2022 "Best City"

accolade for the City of Punta Gorda at its national symposium in September. This award is bestowed only once to a municipality in its respective population category. A second award for outstanding "*community involvement"* was icing on the cake. This recognition is a tribute to the efforts of dozens of community partners and volunteers who toured and feted the AIB judges during their April visit and to the dedication of Punta Gorda in Bloom volunteers and co-chairs Alan Schulman and Richard Polk. The beautiful downtown was ablaze with new flowers by year end. No infrastructure was damaged during Hurricane Ian which expedited the recovery.

Pictured above left: Punta Gorda in Bloom's co-chair Alan Schulman (with wife Barbara center) accepting the awards from AIB judges Cheryl Corson and Tim France (left and right). Pictured above right (l. to r.): TEAM board members tour AIB judges in April. Tom Cavanaugh, Vicki Welsch, Sandy Dressler, Elaine Lawell, Shelly Harris and Betsy Spagnolo. The judges are seated to the left.

Pedal and Play in Paradise Rides Again

"What a fun ride!" proclaimed a smiling cyclist at TEAM's 2022 Pedal and Play in Paradise. Held on a perfect sunny March day, southwest

Florida's premier cycling event featured four rides designed for all skill levels. Some 444 cyclists were treated to the amazing waterside beauty and history of Punta Gorda. Ninety-six percent of survey respondents said they would recommend the event. Food, drink and support services were provided by generous donors including Suncoast Beverages, Jersey Mike's, Waste Management, Springhill Suites, and Harbor Scoops. Net proceeds helped fund TEAM's bicycle-friendly related initiatives. Enjoy a closer look at the 2022 ride on the TEAM website. For information on the March 25, 2023 event visit www.pedalandplaypuntagorda.com.

TEAM depends upon corporate sponsorships, grants, event sponsors, Friends of TEAM donations and contributions from individuals like you. Your support is deeply appreciated. Please recognize and support our Platinum Sponsors pictured below.

Bike Loaner Program Continues to Roll

For more than a decade, TEAM's Free Loaner Bicycle program, in partnership with the City of Punta Gorda, has made brightly colored yellow bicycles available to some 6,000 riders annually. Host pick-up sites currently include the Sheraton Four Points and Springhill Suites hotels and the Laishley Downtown Bait and Tackle shop, conveniently located near Punta Gorda's Harborwalk. New bicycles go into service in 2023 thanks to the generosity of bicycle sponsors and proceeds from TEAM's Pedal and Play in Paradise. For more information about this important program and view a video of its history, visit www.teampuntagorda.org/free-bike-program.

Painting Their Hearts Out in Punta Gorda

In April, TEAM volunteers painted a Punta Gorda Housing Authority owned home, which was then leased to a qualified low-income family. The following week, TEAM volunteers gave the City of Punta Gorda's Bayfront Center a much-needed facelift only to have the building essentially destroyed by Hurricane Ian.

Pictured left (r to l.): Dorothy Simiscue, Terri Burritt, Mary Templeton, and Ken Burrett in the background. Also assisting were Barry Simiscue, Don and Marty Dellenbach, Del Templeton, Bob Bechtold and Bill Welsch. Volunteers painting at the Bayfront Center (pictured right) included members of the Punta Gorda Rotary Club and the Charlotte High School NJROTC.
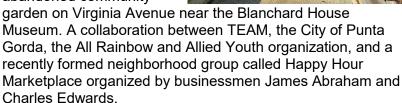
Community Gardens Recovered and Restored

The Punta Gorda History Park Community Garden was in great shape prior to the arrival of Hurricane Ian. The garden plots were ready for planting thanks to help from CJ Lawn Maintenance, Mike Trzandel and Steve Catalino. After Ian roared through the city, it took a small army of volunteers to remove all the debris and return the garden to its former glory. By the close of the year, the seventh fully subscribed season of planting was underway.

TEAM participated in the reclamation of an abandoned community garden on Virginia Avenue near the Blanchard House Museum. A collaboration between TEAM, the City of Punta Gorda, the All Rainbow and Allied Youth organization, and a recently formed neighborhood group called Happy Hour Marketplace organized by businessmen James Abraham and Charles Edwards.

Pictured left in yellow shirts: Volunteers from the Charlotte High School NJROTC. With (l.to r.): Joyce Stanley, James Abraham, Carol McDonald, Ellen Jodway and Sushila Cherian. The Happy Hour Marketplace takes place on Friday evenings across from the Blanchard House Museum.

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

The Effectiveness of Volunteers in Meeting Community Needs
CEO Nancy Johnson

Recently Hurricane Ian gave us a reminder of what we care about. As we rebuild and move down the road to recovery, and beyond, it is critical to revisit the vision and values that are important to our community. Development is coming and there's nothing we can do to stop it, but we can help manage it. This has been a complex and challenging year for everyone.

Once again, TEAM Punta Gorda demonstrated the effectiveness of volunteers in meeting community needs. As a core partner in COADFL, we demonstrated how important preparedness is to coping successfully with disaster. We also played a role in supporting planning for the future. We facilitated a session with the historic preservation organizations about the future of Freeman House, we supported PicklePlex by facilitating their strategic planning, and we took a lead role in convening government and private agencies to evaluate our water quality and to create programs that engage the community. Organizations and government continue to bring new projects to TEAM because they know we are good partners and can move initiatives forward in the future. TEAM welcomes your participation in any capacity. Reach out to our office by phone or email team@teampuntagorda.org. to become involved.

TEAM Board President Sandy Dressler

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, TEAM survived a pandemic followed by a hurricane. We are still here and stronger than ever. This past year, we hosted our annual Pedal and Play, Bicycle Loaner Program, Community Gardens and more. We also were actively involved in Hurricane Ian relief efforts. Our volunteers are the heart of our organization and the key to our success. Our mission is to make Punta Gorda a great place to live, work and play. I look forward to a very busy and successful 2023 doing just that.
Pictured: Sandy and Ron Dressler at Pedal and Play '22.

TEAM Board of Directors

Nancy Johnson, *CEO*
Sandra Dressler, *Board President*
Betsy Spagnolo, *Vice President*
Marianne Lilly, *Secretary*
Ali Kahn, *Treasurer*
Tom Cavanaugh, *Director*
James Coalwell, *Director*
Veronica Conant, *Student Director*
Jake Dye, *Director*
Darcey Hanley, *Director*
Shelly Harris, *Director*
Craig Holt, *Director*
Deb Hoyt, *Director*
Colin WIburn, *Student Director*

The biannual Sarasota Community Foundation Giving Challenge provided a special opportunity in 2022 for recognized nonprofits like TEAM to raise funds to support its diverse initiatives. Thanks to our many *Friends of Team*, volunteers, supporters, and matching funds from the Patterson Foundation, TEAM achieved its goal of $15,000. TEAM's operating expenses were offset, as they are each year, by our sold out annual Golf Scramble. In 2023, we are appealing to all our supporters to become a *Friends of TEAM* donor so we can continue to support initiatives critical to our community.

TEAMPuntaGorda
Volunteers For A Better Community
227 Sullivan Street • Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: 941-637-TEAM • Fax: 941-639-7498
www.teampuntagorda.org

Friends of TEAM