

# TEAM Punta Gorda

## The Wheels are Turning Again!

TEAM had to put its venerable bike loaner program on hold following back-to-back hurricanes last fall that impacted Punta Gorda and damaged many of the bicycles in the fleet. These bicycles have been used by visitors and residents of Punta Gorda for many years and the hiatus was devastating to riders.

When TEAM was contacted by Comcast Corporation Director of Community Affairs, Justin Damiano, with news that they would like to help us get our fleet up and running again, I was elated. We have always had generous sponsors to keep the wheels rolling, but this double dose of devastation was more than TEAM could survive since we are a non-profit organization with limited funds.

Comcast stepped up with a generous donation to TEAM and a proposal to participate with TEAM volunteers on January 27<sup>th</sup> to put the fleet back in service. As a result, we were able to purchase 10 new bikes and refurbish 29 flood damaged bikes.

The event was held at the Charlotte Harbor Sunseeker Resort outdoor parking area. Volunteers from Comcast's community involvement group called "Team Up" were supervised by TEAM Punta Gorda bike loaner volunteers. New seats, bells, baskets, tires, chains and more were put on newly washed bicycles. Once complete, the bikes were immediately deployed to loaner sites in Punta Gorda, including Sheraton Four Points and Springhill Suites hotels and Fresco Coffee Shop on Taylor Street.



*Pictured above: TEAM bike loaner committee members and event volunteers (l.to r.) Ken Burritt, President Betsy Spagnolo, Bryan Wood, Frank Scharpf, Joy Price, Steve Catalino, and CFO Kim Koch. Not pictured: Janet Guthridge, Ron Knight, Kevin Hogan and Barry Simescu.*



*Pictured left: the Comcast "Team Up" employee volunteers hard at work readying bikes to be deployed at various sites in Punta Gorda.*

The project was executed flawlessly, and the weather was perfect. Both teams worked together with such comradery, giving their all to make this happen. We appreciate the generosity of Comcast and will never forget how they came to help when we needed it so much to keep our

community rolling. We are back, the bikes are available and in great shape. Come out and enjoy a ride around our town.

Betsy Spagnolo

Betsy Spagnolo, Board of Directors, President

Pictured right: several of TEAM's hard working bicycle loaner program and event day volunteers. (l. to r.) Bryan Wood, Janet Guthridge, Joy Price, Jack Kelly, Ron Knight, Frank Scharpf, Ken Burritt and Kevin Hogan

