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TEAM Punta Gorda donates bicycles to St. Vincent

TEAM Punta Gorda has donated 11 bicycles to St. Vincent de Paul, Sacred Heart Conference, in Punta Gorda for distribution to the needy in Charlotte County.

The used bicycles were part of TEAM's yellow loaner bicycle fleet. They were recently replaced by 20 new yellow bikes at Fishermen's Village and Laishley Marina. The "retired" bikes were either donated to St. Vincent, painted a variety of colors for placement as works of art around the City of Punta Gorda, or cannibalized for parts.

"It's great that two organizations that rely heavily on volunteers can work together to help the less fortunate in the community," said Gloria Walker, who heads the furniture ministry at St. Vincent.

ACME Bicycle Shop in Punta Gorda provides the yellow bicycles. Staff from ACME work with TEAM volunteers to maintain them.

Working in cooperation with the City of Punta Gorda, TEAM has offered free loaner bicycles since 2010 at several locations. Besides Fishermen's Village and Laishley Marina, the bicycles are stationed at Isles Yacht Club, Charlotte Regional Wellness Center and Four Points Sheraton.

A portion of the proceeds from TEAM's annual bicycle tour, Pedal and Play in Paradise, were used to purchase the new bicycles. Last year, more than 500 cyclists participated in the two-day event. Next year's Pedal and Play will be held March 22 and 23. Proceeds from the event not only support TEAM's bicycle efforts but also the work of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

To learn more about the free loaner bicycle program, visit www.teampuntagorda.org.





Enjoy the following pictures:



Victor Mauro, St. Vincent volunteer (left),
with John Baird, TEAM Bike Loaner
Program Chair



Victor Mauro and John Baird