

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**Thanks to our resilient volunteers and financial supporters,** TEAM accomplished much during an exceptional year of unprecedented challenges. Despite a pandemic, we continued to partner with the public and private sectors to make our community an even better place to live, work and play.



- Punta Gorda is adorned with hanging flower baskets and planters, thanks to the efforts of volunteers working on our newest initiative, “Punta Gorda in Bloom.”
- In partnership with Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity, TEAM volunteers worked under CDC guidelines to build not just one but two homes for deserving Punta Gorda families.
- In collaboration with the City of Punta Gorda, TEAM’s free loaner bicycles are available at four locations. Bikes replaced in 2019 were repaired and donated to St. Vincent de Paul.
- The fifth season of the History Park Organic Community Garden saw all 92 plots fully subscribed. The Charlotte High School student government is nurturing 2 plots at the History Park and garden plots elsewhere in the community.
- TEAM volunteers conducted two successful “contactless” food drives to help restock the St. Vincent de Paul pantry with critically needed nonperishable food and hygiene products.
- Pedal and Play in Paradise, Punta Gorda’s premier biking event, took a breather during 2020 in an abundance of caution. An alternative cycling event is planned for spring 2021.
- TEAM expenses were offset significantly by the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Scramble, by donations made during the 2020 Giving Challenge, platinum, gold and silver sponsorships, and by *Friends of Team* contributions.
- In 2019 the City of Punta Gorda and TEAM launched “Journey to the Future,” an educational project designed to engage the community in the development of the new Citywide Master Plan. The next step is the implementation of the resulting “plan” for our city. Several educational forums will be scheduled during 2021 to allow all citizens to have their voices heard.
- TEAM’s fiscal year has been changed to end on June 30. A financial report will be published in the third quarter of each year, available in print and online.

## Punta Gorda in Bloom

Punta Gorda in Bloom (PGIB), a new 2020 TEAM initiative, successfully completed the beautification of Hector House Square Park with the installation of four light pole and six large sidewalk planters. The committee, chaired by Richard Polk (pictured right with TEAM board member Tom Cavanaugh) is moving

forward with plantings at the historic Courthouse. There are more plantings in the works for Taylor Street and other strategic downtown areas. PGIB is a local affiliate of the America in Bloom organization. The group was formed under the auspices of TEAM Punta Gorda along with the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce and the Punta Gorda Garden Club. The committee is composed of interested citizens, including some members of the PGI Green Thumbs, the Punta Gorda Garden Club, and TEAM



Punta Gorda volunteers. Funding is provided by entrepreneur and philanthropist, Alan Schulman.

## Two Habitat Homes under construction in 2020

Working with our partners and their subcontractors at Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity, a handful of socially distanced *TEAM Builds!* volunteers took up hammers, saws, and other tools to expand affordable housing in our community. In the spring,



volunteers completed a new home in Punta Gorda in record time despite the pandemic. In the fall, the Build team, chaired by TEAM volunteer project manager Peter Krumsiek, broke ground for the second home. Final completion is anticipated in the first quarter of 2021. These collaborative projects have produced attractive, comfortable, affordable homes.

Another Habitat Home is scheduled to break ground this year. Learn more at

<https://teampuntagorda.org/team-builds/>.



Friends of TEAM



TEAM depends upon corporate sponsorships, grants, event sponsors, annual donations from **Friends of TEAM** and contributions from individuals like you. Your support is deeply appreciated. Learn more at [www.teampuntagorda.org/become-a-friend](http://www.teampuntagorda.org/become-a-friend).



## Free Bicycle Loaner Program Still Rolling Strong

In partnership with the city of Punta Gorda and with the financial support of generous individual bike sponsors, TEAM's Free Bicycle loaner program served nearly 5,000 riders in 2020 from virtually all states and many countries. TEAM continues to offer, at no charge to the public, 34 bicycles, 3 tricycles, and a single hand-pedal bike



at 4 Punta Gorda locations. In December, 7 retired bikes (pictured left) from the loaner fleet were repaired, painted, and donated to the resale shop at St. Vincent de Paul in Punta Gorda. TEAM volunteers work with our partners at ACME Bicycle Shop to keep the bikes in top condition.

Would you like to sponsor a bike? Learn more at

[www.teampuntagorda.org/free-bike-program/](http://www.teampuntagorda.org/free-bike-program/).



## Community and School Gardens

The fifth season of the Punta Gorda History Park organic garden is underway. All 92 plots are filled. The Charlotte High School Student Government manages two of the plots. The garden is more than just a place to grow fruits, vegetables, and herbs organically. It is a place for gardeners to come together, share, and learn from each other. It is run by a committee of gardeners who meet monthly. The cost of a seasonal plot is \$25 which includes the plot and guidance by master gardeners and other professionals. The season runs from September 1 through June 30. Watch organic gardening tips and other videos at

[www.teampuntagorda.org/videos](http://www.teampuntagorda.org/videos).



## Volunteers Hold Successful Contactless Food Drives



TEAM Volunteers, directed by Board Vice President Betsy Spagnolo, held two contactless food drives during the year to benefit the food pantry at St. Vincent de Paul in Punta Gorda. Contributions of hygiene products and nonperishable food from residents, neighborhoods and businesses filled dozens of large storage containers. "We at TEAM support our community and want it to be the best place to live," Spagnolo said. "Seeing all of the wonderful donations and our volunteers working to collect them makes this a reality." Volunteers worked in teams of six in two separate shifts.



## Reflections on 2020

### CEO Nancy Johnson

The year 2020 was a challenging time for local nonprofits who need to stay viable and visible so they can regroup for more normal times. Despite the challenges, TEAM volunteers refused to be deterred from improving our community. They have been and still are out there working safely despite current challenges. The stories in this report illustrate some of the great projects underway, each of which displays considerable creativity. We have more in store for 2021. Stay tuned.

During 2019 we all participated in the development of a new Punta Gorda Citywide Master Plan. When the plan was complete, it was filled with many good ideas for Punta Gorda's future. Not all ideas will be adopted, but many will move us forward. Now comes the hard part: implementation.

The city and their consultants, Dover, Kohl & Partners, are working to convert these ideas into land development regulations. Those will provide the basis of our Comprehensive Plan for the next 15-20 years. The city will offer several opportunities for public comment. We encourage you to provide input that will help preserve the character of our community and its unique historical charm. While our volunteers get involved in many activities, stewardship of community development is the core mission of TEAM Punta Gorda and the reason we were founded. We look forward to participating in this process and continuing the journey.



### Board President Sandy Dressler

As I reflect on 2020, I realize how lucky we are to have such dedicated, hardworking volunteers. Even during the pandemic our work continued. We used our creativity to remain as active as the pandemic allowed. Here's to all our many volunteers who are dedicated people giving selflessly of their time, talents and treasures even during these difficult times. A great big thank you to

all our volunteers. Without you we would cease to exist. I look forward to our future.

### 2020 Board of Directors

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