



For Immediate Release – 02/17/2021

### Local Organizations Support TEAM Free Loaner Fleet

*Punta Gorda, FL, February 17, 2021* – The Charlotte Community Foundation and the Punta Gorda Rotary Club have joined the ranks of local organizations sponsoring TEAM Punta Gorda free loaner bicycles.

For over ten years, TEAM Punta Gorda has partnered with the City of Punta Gorda to provide loaner bicycles at no cost to riders. The 34 bicycles, three trikes, and one hand-pedal bicycle are maintained by TEAM volunteers and can be found at four Punta Gorda locations including Laishley Marina, Fishermen's Village, Four Points by Sheraton Punta Gorda Harborside, and the Bayfront Wellness Center. TEAM's Free Loaner Bicycle program relies on support from sponsors recognized with bike basket signs.

"We are very excited to be a part of the complimentary loaner bicycle program," said Charlotte Community Foundation CEO, Ashley Maher. "The program is a great opportunity for residents and visitors alike to get out, get active, and experience our beautiful community first-hand. Working with TEAM and supporting this beneficial and highly-recognizable program exemplifies our mission of connecting people who care with causes that matter."

The Rotary Club of Punta Gorda is a Platinum Sponsor of TEAM Punta Gorda as well as a sponsor of the Free Loaner Bicycle program. "Supporting our Punta Gorda community," said Rotary President Darcy Hanley, "is of vital importance to our club and our members. The bicycles are a healthy way to enjoy our town and see all it has to offer. It is an honor for the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda and our Education and Charity Foundation to be involved and support Team Punta Gorda and their initiatives."

One of the longest standing supporters of the Free Loaner Bicycle program is Marianne Lilly, RE/MAX Harbor Realty. Lilly sponsors numerous bicycles and has done so since the program's inception over ten years ago. "I love that TEAM Punta Gorda created a program for residents and visitors to ride a bike around town, and all for free," said Lilly. "Punta Gorda has such a welcoming spirit, and this program encourages bike riding along the Punta Gorda Pathways. Riders have fun exploring public parks, murals of historic events, and even monuments and markers in the many waterfront parks downtown."

Organizations and individuals interested in sponsoring a bike should contact TEAM Punta Gorda at 941-637-8326 or [team@teampuntagorda.org](mailto:team@teampuntagorda.org) for more information.

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