

Team Punta Gorda valued by citizenry

In surveys and in casual conversations, people tell us that Team Punta Gorda has earned a position in the community and one that is valued by the citizenry. We've worked hard to earn the trust of our collaborating organizations including our governmental partners. As an all-volunteer organization, our pay comes in the form of a variety of rewards:

We love seeing our community flourish. The eclectic charm of our pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly community is attractive to others who come here to visit, shop, dine, vacation, and leave some dollars behind. The quality of life has been enriched through the efforts of so many.

Another reward is the results produced by volunteers who generously share their



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time and talents with the community. We are blessed to have so many people giving back whether this is their place of birth or an adopted home town. The value of the thousands of hours of service annually is immeasurable.

The friendships that have developed from meeting other volunteers is remarkable. I would never have met all the people I know in this community had I not decided to volunteer. This isn't only a beautiful place to live, it's special because of those who reside here!

Seeing other areas of the community form

citizen groups to replicate the contributions of Team Punta Gorda is yet another reward from the work we do. Team Port Charlotte is well under way and a group in Arcadia is in the early formative stage. This is a testimony to the power of collaboration of governmental partners and the private sector.

When citizens and businesses make contributions to Team Punta Gorda they are rewarded with results of which they can be proud. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization we are totally dependent on private contributions to continue the pursuit of our initiatives. In 2011, Team Punta Gorda put in place a unique sponsorship program whereby corporate sponsors become Team partners and we give back to you. Check out the Continue the Journey Campaign at

www.Teampuntagorda.org or call us for more information. It's your opportunity to join organizations like Charlotte Regional Medical Center; Smuggler's Enterprises, Inc.; Charlotte Sun; Calusa Bank; Jack's Restaurant; Don Gasgarth's Charlotte County Ford; and Mike Martin State Farm Insurance in support of our community.

Participation in Team Punta Gorda's fundraising events is yet another rewarding way to get involved. We're showcasing Charlotte County on March 19 by co-hosting the Pedal and Play in Paradise Bicycle Tour with Isles Yacht Club. We're offering five bicycle rides from 62/30/15-mile, a 7-mile Mystery Tour, and the ever-popular City Manager's/History Tour co-led by City Manager Howard Kunik and local historian Captain Louis Desguin. Get a pre-registered

rate of \$30 and you'll be amazed at the extraordinary value you'll receive besides having a great time! The ride benefits the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and Team Punta Gorda's bicycle-friendly community initiatives. Check out Pedal and Play in Paradise on Facebook or on the web at www.pedalandplayinparadise.com. Our amazing video will tell you all you need to know.

Team Punta Gorda's annual golf tournament fundraiser at St. Andrews South is on April 2. Get your foursome together or register individually and we'll find a foursome for you. For only \$75 per player you're guaranteed to have a great time while supporting your community. Registration forms are available on the Team Punta Gorda website.

Your purchase of commemorative pavers placed at the interac-

tive fountain in Laishley Park helps Team Punta Gorda fund beautification projects. We've got lots of room to add your paver and make you a part of our community's history. One paver is \$100, three for \$250, and five for \$400. Pavers make very special gifts. Paver order forms are also available on the Team Punta Gorda website.

To become more involved in Team Punta Gorda's happenings, contact us at 637-Team or e-mail team@teampuntagorda.org. Check out our website at www.teampuntagorda.org and sign up to receive our e-newsletter, Team Talk, right on our home page. We also invite you to "like" us on Facebook. We welcome your participation.

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