



Healing Field of Honor

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Rotary33950@gmail.com



Rotary Club of Punta Gorda



Volunteers Needed for upcoming Projects and Events

Healing Field of Honor. Volunteers are still needed **Thursday-Monday, November 9-11**, for the Healing Field of Honor. Please see Alyson Burch to sign up for flag preparation, field set-up, manning the visitors booth, and for field take down at the end of the weekend.

Paint Your Heart Out. Here's the return of a hands-on work project that we used to do in the past. Now we're partnering with TEAM Punta Gorda, under Nancy Johnson's leadership, to "paint our hearts out" for the Gulf Coast Partnership's Affordable Housing Project. On **Saturday, November 18th**, sign up to paint a house for a deserving family! It's a great community project.

Florida International Air Show. If you would like to man the VIP tent at the Florida International Air Show on either **Friday night, Saturday, or Sunday, November 3-5**, please sign up at a lunch meeting or contact Brad Gamblin. Volunteers get a t-shirt and free entry. Also, Punta Gorda Rotary will have a tent with seating for 20 at the air show on Sunday.

Taste of Punta Gorda. Team leaders as well as many volunteers are needed to prepare for the 16th Annual Taste of Punta Gorda, **Sunday, March 3**. Far ahead of the event, we need team leaders for the following tasks: Licensing & Permitting, Sponsor Recruitment, Restaurant Recruitment, Vendor Management, Volunteer Recruitment, Beverage & Restaurant Supply, Site Management & Operations, Publicity, and Security. *This is a major undertaking, and we only have five months!* Please see James Williams to volunteer.

New Member Spotlight -

Welcome Jennifer Bucurel!

Jennifer comes from Mississippi and loves to boat, fish, and garden. Jennifer loves to travel as well and would love to return to Australia. Jennifer moved to Punta Gorda because of her work. She works in Prevention and loves to be around students. Jennifer is no stranger to Rotary.

She was Charter President for the Rotary Club of East



Club Meeting Place & Time

Punta Gorda
Meets at ISLES YACHT CLUB, 1780 W
Marion Ave, Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Time: Thursday at 12:00 PM

Club Officers



Laura C. Knutson
Treasurer - Assistant



Peter R. Wilkins
President



James C. Williams
President-Elect
Public Relations Chair
International Service Chair



Stephen J. Goettler
Secretary



Alyson Burch
Treasurer
Past President



Arnie Eastburn
Bulletin Editor

Breven Baima



Mississippi, now the Rotary Club of Central Mississippi, an e-club. Fundraising events she worked on included a Clay Target Shoot, a Wine Tasting, and basket give aways. The fundraiser supported the club's Interact Club and a Cub Scout group. Her club provided entry fees and support for the Cub Scouts to be in the local Christmas parade.

As District 6820 Foundation Chair, Jennifer was involved in many local and global projects, including dictionaries, the Lions Reading Room, water projects, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, RYLA, Interact clubs, and Rotaract Clubs. The Rotary International Empowering Girls project started by RI President Jennifer Jones was an original project from District 6820. After the death of its incoming DG, the project was supported by every District in Zones 30 and 31, and it was the second successful Toilete Block Project in India. Jennifer was also involved in the Mississippi Rotary License Plate project, sponsored by the Jackson Rotary Club.

We are very happy to have Jennifer join us and look forward to being a part of her continuing Rotary journey.

International Project Spotlight: Water4Life Mozambique

By Arnie Eastburn

Water4 Life Mozambique, our club's first Global Grant Project during 2020-2021, continues to thrive in providing water to remote villages in Mozambique. Approximately 50% of Mozambique's rural population still lacks clean, safe water access. Inadequate water supply affects health and perpetuates a cycle of poverty, as time and resources are spent on obtaining and treating water.

Punta Gorda Rotary's support has been instrumental in transforming lives in Mozambique. To date, we have made the drilling of over 10 wells possible, each impacting approximately 1,200 villagers. Overall, Water4Life Moz has drilled 316 wells since 2015, impacting approximately 379,200 lives. And, its commitment doesn't end there; they provide long-term, sustainable solutions and educational programs. Thanks to a dedicated Pump Maintenance Program, the impact of clean water *multiplies* over time, benefiting not just individuals but entire communities for years to come.

Additionally, Water4Life has started a Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Program that is equally crucial to clean water. Under the leadership of Dr. Ruth Estina Nherezanada, village people are trained in effective hand-washing techniques, safe food handling, and maintaining cleanliness in their living environment. The goal is to minimize the impact of waterborne diseases, enhancing villagers' quality of life.



Sergeant-at-Arms



[Charles F. Marlowe](#)
Rotary Foundation Chair



[Rosa Benghtt](#)
Club Programs Chair



[Donna Calderon](#)
Club Service Chair



[Nancy A. Johnson](#)
Community Service Chair



[Ed Davis](#)
Vocational Service Chair



[Darcy Hanley](#)
Youth Services Chair



[Charles F. Marlowe](#)
Area Governor Area 6

Punta Gorda Rotary Charity and Education Foundation



[Paul F. Blaine](#)
Member



[Darcy Hanley](#)
Chair



[Nancy A. Johnson](#)
Member



[Paul V. Lioon](#)
Member

[Charles D. Marsee](#)
Vice-Committee Chair



Ruth Nherezanada (Director of WASH Program) with Arthur Sacur, Field Administrator.

The ripple effect of all of this is an often-overlooked benefit. Having a well in a village dramatically increases the safety it provides for young girls, who otherwise would have to walk miles along remote paths to fetch water. Village water wells have significantly reduced the risk of abduction and abuse. Plus, easy access to water means more time for education, increasing school attendance rates among children. Girls who get an education are far less likely to marry young, have children, and continue living in poverty.

Visit Water4Life Mozambique's website. Donate online at www.water4lifemozambique.org or send a check to **Water4Life Mozambique, 42881 Lake Babcock Dr., Suite 200, Babcock Ranch, FL 33982-5042.**

First Round of Foundation Grants

The first round of Foundation Grants has been considered by the grant review committee and approved by the board in the closing days of September. The approved grants totaling **\$15,650** include:

Charlotte High School & Troupe 0922 - \$100 Youth Service
 Garden Mission (Honduras orphanage) - \$1250 International
 Shelter Box - \$1000 International
 Water4Life Mozambique - \$6900 International
 Charlotte County Art Guild - \$1000 Youth Service
 TEAM Punta Gorda - \$5000 Community Service
 Rotary Club of Lakewood for Hurricane Idalia Relief - \$500
 Rotary Club of Lahaina - \$1000 Emergency Relief

The second quarter round of grant applications will be due to the review committee sometime in December.

Hosting our local Chambers of Commerce

Our club hosted breakfast at Dean's South of the Border on Wednesday, September 13th for the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce. It was a great turn out of over 75 Chamber members. Darcy Hanley introduced Rotary to the group, Alyson Burch did a great job presenting on the Healing Field of Honor, and James spoke about the Taste of Punta Gorda and gave out "disaster OK/HELP" posters to everyone in attendance.

Dr.



Douglas Morey
Secretary



Lachlan C. Smith
Assistant Treasurer



Peter R. Wilkins
Member



James C. Williams
Treasurer

Events

September 28th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: George Lewis and Ruth Bowling

October 5th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Stan Smith
Subject: 2023 Florida International Air Show

October 12th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Alyson Burch and James Williams
Subject: Healing Field of Honor and Taste of Punta Gorda

October 19th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Angie Matthiessen
Subject: United Way of Charlotte County



On September 20th, we jointly hosted the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce's 7th Wednesday coffee of the year at the Charlotte County Events Center. Some 80 Chamber members attended, and Alyson, a past president of the Chamber, spoke on the Club's behalf about all that we do.

Disaster Preparedness OK/HELP Poster

Toward the end of September, we held a press conference at the Punta Gorda Public Safety Building to announce the release of our Disaster Preparedness OK/HELP Poster, 10,000 in total. They are currently available at the Public Safety Building, the fire houses on Acline Road and Aquia Esta, the PGI Community Center, the Punta Gorda Public Library, and the Cooper Street Recreation Center.

We have gotten 2,200 posters to Charlotte High School (thank you, Darcy Hanley), and the task for us now is to distribute them throughout the community. If all Rotarians can take some to distribute in your own neighborhoods, that would be wonderful. We particularly want to have them available at all mobile home parks, so if you can volunteer to take them to mobile home parks, please ask James Williams and he'll get you as many as you need.





Ukraine Relief is still Needed



Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, our club has partnered with the Czestochowa Rotary Club in Poland to help provide humanitarian and medical aid to refugees and to hospitals in Ukraine. Wojtek Janokoski, immediate past president of the Czestochowa club, led the effort for his club and continues to do so. Closely working with him is Vitalie Yerkovich and Hegelmann company, which transported all the relief aid into

Ukraine where it is most needed.

As a thanks for all our efforts, Wojtek sent a flag to our club, which arrived to the Anna Maria Island Rotary Club the last week of September. It is signed by Ukrainian recipients of aid as well as by Czestochowa Rotarians. Pictured below is Wojtek and Vitalie of the Czestochowa Rotary Club (right) with the flag, and Jim McDaniels and Bob Slicker, of the Anna Maria club, with James Williams (left) accepting the flag for our Punta Gorda club.



Today Vitalie's efforts continue. He has opened an orphanage in Ukraine to take in children who have lost their families. If you are so inclined, you can make a donation for this continued aid to the Punta Gorda Rotary Foundation, Ukraine Relief, P.O. Box 511132, Punta Gorda FL 33951-1132.

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