

**PUNTA GORDA ROTARY CHARITY
AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.**

The Punta Gorda Charity and Education Foundation, Inc. was founded in 1991 to serve as the charitable funding arm of the Punta Gorda Rotary Club. Commonly referred to as the Punta Gorda Rotary Foundation, the organization operates as a tax-exempt, not-for-profit agency under the Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)(3).

The Foundation is exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, through the making of grants to organizations that qualify as tax exempt. It acts through the provision financial aid to endeavors that promote or support the goals and ideals of the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda and the Rotary International Foundation.

The Foundation is a visible force to support organizations that demonstrate commitment to “*Service Above Self*”, help young people through scholarships, assist families in need, improve quality of life and foster strong partnerships within the greater Punta Gorda region and beyond. The Foundation also supports the Rotary International Foundation and Rotary District Initiatives.

Governance

The Foundation is governed by all volunteer Trustees who are elected by the general membership of the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda. All members of the Punta Gorda Rotary Club are also members of the Foundation.

Source of Funds

The Foundation is funded through the fundraising efforts of the Punta Gorda Rotary Club, along with donations from individual Rotarians, as well as the general public.

Grants

Grants are awarded to support the needs in the following areas:

- **Community Projects** - projects that enhance the City of Punta Gorda and surrounding areas (park improvements, etc.)
- **Youth Projects** – projects that address the needs of our youth in the area (student leadership programs, scholarships, etc.)
- **International Projects** - various health and educational projects worldwide (water wells in Africa, wheelchairs in Central America, etc.)
- **Vocational Service Projects** –programs that encourage high ethical standards and worthiness of all occupations (training programs, career shadowing, etc.)
- **The Rotary International Foundation** – Rotary’s international aid, health and education foundation (international student exchanges, polio eradication, etc.)
- **Emergency Assistance** – grants to other Rotary Clubs and charitable organizations that that are providing disaster aid (hurricanes, floods, disease, etc.)

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda, we invite you to participate in helping us to Serve Others.

W. Craig Esterly, President, Foundation President