



**Pat Robitaille, President**

## **FOCUS June 2021 Newsletter**

*Edited by Ethel Kallsen*

A very special thank you to all who came out for our May Meeting and Bingo at the Yacht Club. It was so great to be able to meet in person and enjoy the awesome events and prizes that **Lisa Storey** puts together for us. **Kina Fowler** made it fun with her calling Bingo even if she won the final game! Awesome job, Kim.

This month will be busy with the **Rummage Sale** and **Backpack Program**. Both of these require a lot of member involvement. Please consider helping out when called upon. It's lots of fun to work with fellow FOCUS members and meet some new ones.

With summer vacations starting and our June events, we will not be having a regular June meeting. But, gear up for July for something very special. Lisa has secured event space for us at the Shores for Saturday, July 24th. This will be a family picnic in the early evening with a band and lots of fun with dancing. More details will follow but do "save the date" as you will not want to miss it.

We have also signed up to participate in the **Coronado 4th of July Parade**. This year, the theme is "The American Dream". Since FOCUS strives to help create an American dream for many San Diego kids, we are thinking it could be fun to have lots of kids dressed in outfits that might represent their American dream. These could include Graduation Gown and many different Professions. If you have kids, grandkids, friends, etc who could help, please have them participate. We are hoping that you would have an appropriate outfit for them. As an example, we have 2 SD grandkids. One would like to be a professional ice hockey player, while our granddaughter would like to be a major league baseball player. So, they will come dressed as each. I am sure you can put your imagination to work and help make this a fun FOCUS parade entry. More details will follow shortly.

Enjoy Summer 2021!

*June Birthday*

*Therese Palleres June 25*





**BINGO TIME at our May meeting, Thanks, Lisa Storey, for making it a lot of fun!!**



**VISTA HILL is having their major fund raiser, a Fashion Show/Luncheon on September 25 at the Sheraton Harbor Island called "The Show Must Go On".**

**VISTA HILL, whom FOCUS supports, provides guidance and resources to families with challenges of mental illness and substance use disorder.**

**Please mark your calendars for a fun time and support a worthy organization!**

**Long-time FOCUS member Bev Dyer recently celebrated her 100th Birthday!**

**Membership**  
**Lorna Perez-Caster**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

We currently have 118 paid members.

Active Members: 67      Patron Members: 51

**Please welcome our newest member!**

**Carolyn Rogerson**



### **Membership Directory**

Our 2021 Membership Directories have been printed and distributed. Members who attended our May Bingo Meeting were able to pick up their directories at the meeting. Those who were unable to attend, and who live either in Coronado Cays or in Coronado Village, had their directories hand delivered to them. For those living outside of Coronado you should have or will soon receive them via postal mail.

**A big thank you goes out to all those who assisted with the membership drive, as well as the printing, assembly and distribution of our directories.**

Printing, stuffing and mailing renewal letters – **Pat Robitaille, Vicki Bernitt,**

Calling members regarding renewals - **Vicki Bernitt, Genie Brown, Yoe Kusumoto**

Printing and assembling directories – **Ed Robitaille, Pat Robitaille**

Assisting with directory distribution - **Sharyn Blongiewicz, Lucile Fleming,**

**Ethel Kallsen, Marjorie Logan, Pat Robitaille**

If you have not yet received your directory, please feel free to contact:

**Lorna Perez-Caster at [lcaster@focus-sdkids.org](mailto:lcaster@focus-sdkids.org)**

**We love adding members all year long, so if you know of anyone who may have an interest in learning more about FOCUS and perhaps becoming a member, please forward their mailing address to [lcaster@focus-sdkids.org](mailto:lcaster@focus-sdkids.org) and Lorna will send them an information packet.**

**Sharyn Blongiewicz**  
**1st VP / Fundraising**



**Saturday, June 12th ~ 7AM - Noon. Many great things have been donated for sale!**

**Thank you, Roger Clapp for chairing this event and thank you Don Swanson and Fred Eckert for all publicity.**

**The always generous Jean and Gene Bauer, made their garage available for storage of items that had to be donated prior to the posted collection days. Thank you!!!**



# RUMMAGE SALE

## Saturday, June 12

**7:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Coronado Cays**

*HOA Parking Lot*

*505 Grand Caribe Causeway*

Toys, Dishes,  
Glassware, Linens,  
Sporting Equipment,  
Fishing Gear,  
Boating Items,  
Jewelry, Bikes, Baby  
Items, Patio  
furniture, etc....!!!

### **DONATE:**

We will gratefully accept your gently used items at the Grand Caribe Room, CCHOA

Thursday June 10 *and* Friday June 11

Hours: 10 AM - 4 PM

Sorry ... No clothes or Old Electronics accepted

**SHOP FOR GREAT BARGAINS:**

June 12, Saturday 7 AM - 12:00 PM

*Please put these dates on your calendar and remember...*

**ALL Proceeds Help San Diego Disadvantaged Kids.**

FOCUS is an all volunteer 501 (c)(3)

Donation receipts will be available upon request.

*[www.focus-sdkids.org](http://www.focus-sdkids.org)*

*questions? Roger Clapp*

*[roger.clapp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:roger.clapp@sbcglobal.net)*

We reserve the right to decline unusable, broken and / or un-saleable items.

Your first 2021 Holiday Season invitation!

## "Yuletide Magic"

PLEASE...

# Save the Date!



Saturday  
December 18, 2021

Nautilus Room  
Coronado, CA

*The committee is already hard at work to ensure that  
this dinner party will be elegant, beautiful,  
delicious and full of holiday surprises and cheer!*

**Please put it on your calendar today.**

All Details and Reservation Information  
Will Follow.



*The Christmas Spirit is all about helping others...*



# FOCUS

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN UNITED SOCIETY

## **PROJECTS**

**Barbara Donahue and Carin Cross**

FOCUS has received a most generous **\$10,000** donation, designated for **Urban Street Angels**, who provide support, housing and job training for homeless teens

At their request, this will be used to meet their monthly needs for food, hygiene items, cleaning and office supplies, and other necessities as they arise. **Roger Clapp** has volunteered to shop throughout the year..

**May Projects** approved include:

**Nativity Prep-\$1,100**-Chrome books and educational books, purchased by Sharon Shelton, extra Chrome books donated by **Jon Webster**;

**Burrito Boyz-\$1,100** for Kids' Korner- snack bags, juice, fruit-to be provided weekly by **Nanci Copley**.

**Voices for Children-\$250**-Special request for comforters, sheets for boy and girl being reunited with their mother. Shopper-**Lorna Caster-Perez**.

**New Alternatives-\$500** toward food, prizes, picnic supplies for a summer picnic for foster children, who have been unable to attend camp or other fun get togethers during the pandemic.

**BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK PROJECT-\$5000** FOCUS will resume our custom of providing backpacks filled with school supplies to several hundred school children. They will be distributed through our agencies but assembled by **FOCUS** in late July.

**Stay tuned for the date. We need your help.**

**FOCUS Financial Report**  
**Sharon Shelton**

**FOCUS Financial Report for April 2021**



**Balance as of 1 Apr 2021**

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Available Projects</b> | <b>\$18,083.17</b> |
| Grant Allocation          | \$47,500.00        |
| Reserve                   | \$25,000.00        |

**Income**

|                         |                                         |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Wine Tasting Fundraiser | +\$ 762.74 (minus Give Smart fees)      |
| Membership              | +\$ <u>1,048.05</u> (minus PayPal fees) |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>\$ 1,810.79</b>                      |

**Expenses (Projects)**            - \$ 3,496.93

**Balance as of 30 Apr 2021**

|                           |                                                            |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Available Projects</b> | <b>\$16,398.26 (includes \$1.23 savings acct interest)</b> |
| Grant Allocation          | \$47,500.00                                                |
| Reserve                   | \$25,000.00                                                |

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO DESIGNATE F.O.C.U.S AS YOUR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION  
WHEN USING **AMAZON.SMILE** FOR ALL YOUR ON-LINE PURCHASES.

“

"A mother's hug lasts long after she lets go". Unknown

## MEMBER in the SPOTLIGHT

# Fred Eckert



**by Don Swanson**

Fred Eckert's parents, Fred and Betty, immigrated through Ellis Island, New York, and settled in New York from Germany. Fred was born in Bronx, New York and was raised along with his sister, Gerta. When he was two years old they moved to New Jersey. His dad was a blacksmith, and Fred still has the iron anvil that his dad left to him. Fred spent many a day working in his dad's shop. His mom drove a school bus for a good many years.

When they first moved to New Jersey it was to an old house on a 5 acre parcel. The original house had no indoor plumbing.. It wasn't long thereafter that his dad installed an electric light to be used when visiting the outhouse. His parents bought 26 acres and built a new residence on the property, complete with modern plumbing, electricity, and toilets. Fred had a good childhood, and even became an Eagle Scout.

At age 14, something happened in his life that still remains with him to this day.

Fred is proud to show his Copper Canyon Mining Company stock certificate (in photo). The company of course no longer exists, but for young Fred Eckert, age 14, it was his entry into buying and selling stocks. It was a very incredible journey for a young man to become excited about learning about companies and buying their offerings. Shortly thereafter he parlayed a \$900 investment into reaping almost \$10,000 by the time he was nineteen . After finishing high school, Fred attended Trenton State College and majored in history. Trenton State College changed its name in 1996 to College of New

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Fred had wanted to be a stockbroker, however, the draft was an issue for him after college and instead of being drafted, he elected to join the Navy. In those days if an aviation officer candidate joined the Navy and they stayed six months and one day, their military obligation was completed, and they could not be drafted. Of course it was the duty of the Marine drill instructors to eliminate those trying to stay the duration just to avoid the draft. Forty-eight, including Fred, started on a Sunday afternoon in 1971 at the Aviation Officer's Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida, and by Wednesday only 22 remained. Eventually, only 12 graduated, and he became a helicopter pilot in 1972, retiring from the Navy in 1992 with about 3,800 hours flight time.

After retiring from the service, he joined Chicago Title Insurance Company as a sales representative, and has been with them ever since. He even put together a book entitled "198 Super Things to Think, Say, and Do" in 2005 which is a compilation of inspirational sayings, well-known, anonymous and a few original. The book was underwritten by Chicago Title. In the book, Fred dedicates it to his late wife Susan, all of their joint children, as well as both sets of their parents.

Fred is a man of many hats. He is an active member of the San Diego Downtown's Lion Club, Coronado Real Estate Association, former president of San Diego Creative Investors Association, Coronado Historical Association, as well as the Coronado Island Film Festival. He was a friend of George Chamberlain, a radio talk host and investor, and played golf with him. He believes in buying and holding stocks, and favors the "Dividend Aristocrats" list of published stocks.

It was Suzanne Manuel that introduced Fred to FOCUS. The more he learned about FOCUS the more involved he became. He quickly became a shopper, and

about FOCUS the more involved he became. He quickly became a shopper, and then another incident occurred which dramatically changed his outlook on abused kids.

Fred was delivering FOCUS supplies to the Polinsky Center in San Diego when he saw, and listened to the stories of battered children being helped at the center.

"I encourage every FOCUS member to go as a shopper, and even with another FOCUS member, to actually be a witness at the facilities for the agencies that FOCUS supports. To see, hear, and converse with agency employees, will really make you understand and appreciate what FOCUS is all about."

Because of that experience, Fred continues to support FOCUS efforts. He has even challenged other FOCUS members by offering to match volunteer contributions on numerous occasions.

Fred has a rescued Shiba Inu that he got as a puppy, and has had for ten years so far. A Shiba Inu is considered an ancient Japanese hunting dog breed, and is small to medium in size. Sassy, as the dog is named, is very well-trained. Fred had Sassy lay on the floor while he placed a treat on top of each of her front paws. The dog just laid there, as Fred whispered to this writer to say, "Now." When the word "now" was spoken, Sassy came to life, jumped up, which then knocked the treats unto the floor, where she quickly picked up and ate the treats.

Fred plays golf with other FOCUS members. He can often be seen on the links with Fred Kallsen, John Lepore, and Bob Blongiewicz. He does 60 push-ups daily, and rides his bike all over Coronado. Bird houses he builds, and lots of them. In his backyard hangs about four or five, but in his frontyard, sideyard, and between the sidewalk and the curb, hangs many more of his creations. One of the bird houses by the curb has a solar panel which lights up the bird house at night, quite a treat during the day, and a trip by his house at night will reveal the dwelling for those birds deciding to check in for the night.

Fred is a very positive and inspirational person. He considers everyone a friend, and his heart, soul, and money go out to battered kids. Thank you Fred for being a "spotlight FOCUS member" and sharing your story, while encouraging

Fred is a very positive and inspirational person. He considers everyone a friend, and his heart, soul, and money go out to battered kids. Thank you Fred for being a "spotlight FOCUS member" and sharing your story, while encouraging all members of FOCUS to become shoppers, and experience for themselves what it is like to visit, see, and to hear the stories of those we support.



**Friends of Children United Society**