

PRESIDENT REPORT

Pat Robitaille

What an incredible start to 2021 we have had! I know that many of us have received our Covid vaccinations and are looking forward to the time we can meet again in person. We are continuing to monitor the situation and will take advantage of the opportunity as soon as it presents itself.

February was a great month for us with so many of you participating in our events. Here is a brief recap:

1. The second week of our Food Drive was so successful that we were able to reach out to a second agency after filling the Christie's Place pantry. With the help of **Barbara Donahue**, we identified Aseltine School and had equal as much to donate to them. They are so thankful. Great job FOCUS members!
2. With special thanks to **Lisa Storey**, our Mardi Gras happy hour was a great success. In addition to the masks, beads and king cupcakes, we had a trivia night with fun facts each member shared about themselves. We had lots of fun guessing who it was and learning a little more about each member.
3. We engaged with Inflection Point to begin our website refresh. They ran a short survey and are now ready to work with our team leaders of **Sharyn Blongiewicz and Vicki Bernitt** to put together a plan and timeline. We are still looking for more volunteers to help guide this effort. Please reach out to me if you can join.
4. We had a very successful event on February 24, presenting the cargo van to CCSA. **Sharyn B.** did a great job getting the word out to ensure we had KUSI (we were on the evening news!), reporters, Coronado Chamber of Commerce and our Coronado Mayor Richard Bailey. Also, a very special thank you to all the members who came out and supported this event.
5. We had a committee of Leslie Granger, **Pam Plumbley, Barbara Donahue** and myself to review and propose updates to our by-laws. These are coming out shortly for member vote and adoption. Please look for it and provide your input.

Upcoming:

- We are returning to our monthly membership meetings. They will be held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 4pm. Be sure to mark this on your calendars. Once again, we have Lisa Storey putting together fun-filled events for us. **March 18 is St. Patrick's Day with Bingo.** Plan on joining us!
- You have spoken! Based on survey results, we will be having a Member Drive each quarter to support the needs of an agency. The Food Drive was hugely successful and you voted to continue food as well as other items. Keep an eye out for the next drive.

Thank you so much for your tremendous support and hope to see you soon.



Sharon Shelton FOCUS Financial Report

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Balance as of 1 Jan 2021 | \$72,772.88 |
| Deposits | + 4,168.57 |
| Expenses (projects/grants) | - <u>2,574.48</u> |

Balance as of 31 Jan 2021 \$74,366.97

For FOCUS members interested in shopping for projects, if you set up an account in Zelle, you can be reimbursed the same day you submit your reimbursement form/receipts! Very fast and easy!



Sharyn Blongiewicz
1st VP Fundraising

To say the absolute, very least, 2020 was not a good year for FOCUS fundraising! With some obstacles to work through, here's what is on the schedule, so far, for 2021 ... all subject to complying with all applicable COVID protocols - of course!

Please put the following dates on your calendars...

All information, invitations, etc. will follow:



April 15:

Wine Tasting at the beautiful, new, Vom Foss tasting room at the Coronado Landing ... Social distanced, groups of 10 will be scheduled every hour 2 - 6 PM. Invitation and details to follow. (Put your own group together?)



JUNE 12:

Huge Rummage Sale / CHOA Parking Lot. Start sorting and saving your gently used items to donate. Please direct your questions to Chairman Roger Clapp. roger.clapp@sbglobal.net (Thank you, Roger!)



NOVEMBER 20:

Annual Holiday Boutique at CCYC



DECEMBER 18:

Holiday Gala. Festive attire (that we didn't get to wear in 2020!) Music, dancing, entertainment, catered table service & some fun surprises!

Membership

LORNA PEREZ-CASTER MEMBERSHIP

Our current membership to date is 76. This is based on receipt of dues for 2021.
Active Members: 45 Patron Members: 31

We have one new member this year, Ed Robitaille. Welcome, Ed!

In the past few years our membership has been between 180 and 200 members, so as you can see, we are well behind that number. FOCUS dues provide essential funds, allowing us to continue our goal of assisting children in need. Without our members FOCUS does not exist. Hopefully we can count on those of you who have not yet renewed to show your continued support of FOCUS by renewing your membership as soon as possible.

We always welcome new members, so if you know of anyone who has the desire to assist children in need, please encourage them to join FOCUS.

Active Membership - \$75 annually

Patron Membership - \$150 annually

To renew or join online please click on the link below:
<https://focus-sdkids.org/membership-application/>

You will be instructed to first complete the membership form and then click on the link for payment. Please note that online payment may be made through PayPal or with Visa/MasterCard.

If you prefer to pay by check please be sure to complete the FOCUS membership form through the above link and then mail your payment to FOCUS P.O. Box 180023 Coronado, CA 92178

Questions? Please contact Lorna Perez-Caster, 2021 Membership Director at lcaster@focus-sdkids.org

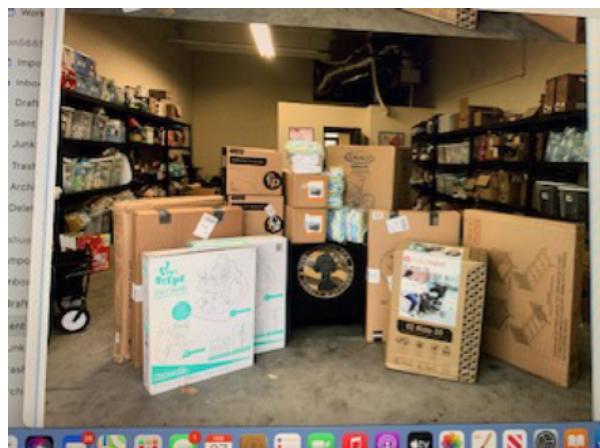
PROJECTS

Barbara Donahue, Carin Cross Co-Directors

February was *MILITARY MONTH* for Projects. We helped many young military families through these agencies: San Diego MOM, Support The Enlisted Project and a new agency, Foundation for Women Warriors.

*We thank our shoppers, **Alice Rodriguez, Roger Clapp and Jeri Barsz.***

Photo shows the collection of baby furniture, walkers, strollers etc. purchased by Alice Rodriguez for Foundation for Women Warriors. They will be given to women transitioning out of the military and establishing a civilian career.



Member in "The Spotlight"

ROGER CLAPP



By Don Swanson

Can you imagine being in a Coronado bar with a group of Navy SEALs who are in a beer fight? One young SEAL, ducks, and a young lady gets a cup full of beer thrown at her. The young Navy Ensign that ducked strikes up a conversation with the lady, after apologizing for getting beer thrown at her. He leaves with her phone number, after booking a date for the next day.

After nearly fifty years later they are still married.

The marriage between Chris Grob, and Roger Clapp was further complicated because they were married in Pacific Beach, California in November, and then later, they traveled to St. Louis, Missouri in December for a large wedding with Chris's family; a place where Chris was born and raised. The couple was married in 1971, and will celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary this year!

Roger and Chris have three grown sons. Two of the sons are living in the San Diego area, while the third, a doctor, lives in Clovis, California. They are blessed with five grandchildren, four boys and one girl.

In 1973 they purchased their present house on B Avenue in Coronado, near Sacred Heart Catholic Church and school. All three boys attended Sacred Heart School, while two of the boys were born at Balboa Naval Hospital, one was born in the Philippines, where Roger was stationed.

Roger was born in Rye, New York, and at the age of ten, his family moved to Berlin, Connecticut. Roger has an older brother, and a sister who passed away at age 67. While in high school, Roger excelled in wrestling all four years, and won most of his matches. He also wrestled in college for three years. Roger attended Mt. Union College, in Alliance, Ohio.

While in college he also played soccer, and majored in economics. When he finished college, he joined in the Navy. After completing Officer's Candidate School (OCS) he chose to tryout for the Navy SEALs. He spent the next 22 years of his life as a Navy SEAL, with one of the highlights being Commanding Officer of SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team ONE. He was awarded two Bronze Stars for service while in Vietnam. And like a lot of service people on active duty in time of war, he did not discuss any details of his activities while in Vietnam.

Chris became a registered nurse after completing her schooling in St. Louis. She came to California a couple of years later to enjoy the weather, and begin her career as a nurse again. She was with a few of her friends when she visited the bar in Coronado, where she met Roger. At the time she was living in Pacific Beach, and has worked at Mercy Hospital and later at Scripps Children's Hospital. When they had their first son, Chris gave up her career to raise her sons while traveling around the world with her Navy husband.

The Clapps have lived in Hawaii, the Philippines, London, and Tennessee while Roger served his country. After retiring from the service they have been all over the world on cruises, tours, and vacations. They are both avid collectors of paintings, sketches, and have several large copies of Norman Rockwells' colorful renditions. The art they have collected are all colorful, and cheery. A story goes with each painting which tells of the artist, or the reason they selected that particular piece.

Both Chris and Roger have been active members of the Friends of the Coronado Library. Roger joined FOCUS in 2015. He has been treasurer for two years, has chaired the rummage sale for a number of years, and became president in 2019. He embraces the mission of FOCUS, as well as expressed his deep appreciation to the dedicated efforts that all members contribute of their time to activities like the rummage sales, boutique sales, bingo parties, and major engagements.

It was at one such function that Roger was sitting at the same table with Coronado Mayor, Richard Bailey, that he was informed that funds might be available for FOCUS from the City. Roger insured that the necessary paperwork was completed and FOCUS was given their first grant from the city. Thank you, Roger, for the start of a wonderful and beneficial relationship with the city.

Roger rides his bike about five miles a day around the city, six or seven days a week. He kayaks on the bay for a couple of hours twice a week. They have a friendly dog named Buddy, and the couple are proud of their gardening presentations.

Over thirty species of roses, actually twenty-nine because he has planted two dark red Mr. Lincolns, otherwise twenty-nine different shades of color, as well as bi-colors.

It is people like Roger and his wife that make up FOCUS. We are lucky and grateful to have Roger and his wife as members, and especially for his personal contributions to FOCUS, having served on the board, shopped and organized the rummage sale.

Thank you, Roger, for your story, and we look forward to seeing you in June at this year's rummage sale. He has volunteered to be the chair, once again, for the event.