



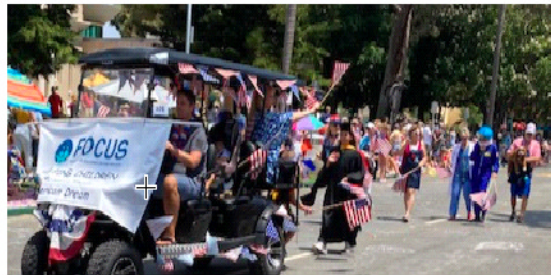
FOCUS August 2021 Newsletter

Edited by *Ethel Kallsen*

Pat Robitaille, President

Once again, we had an incredible month for FOCUS in July. It is great to see so many of our members coming out to support the organization. What a great year we are having. Highlights include:

1. **4th of July Parade**
2. **Orange Avenue Banner Award**
3. **New FOCUS Gear**



FOCUS Entry: **Coronado 4th of July Parade**

A special thank you to Sharyn Blongiewicz for organizing our **4th of July entry** and walkers. And, a special thank you to John and Betty Lepore for hosting our gathering and putting out such nice treats.

The theme of the parade was “the American dream” and we showcased walkers in professions that we help San Diego’s kids achieve. Well done!

FOCUS BANNERS ON ORANGE AVENUE

Thanks to our partners at Inflection Point (also did our new logo and website), we were able to submit an application for FOCUS banners to hang on Orange Avenue during their non-profit series that runs from September 15 thru November 26.



The Coronado Orange Avenue Banner Committee is recommending that we get 10 poles. We are thrilled to get our name out there with special recognition for our 40 years, which occurs next year.



New FOCUS Gear To celebrate our new logo and lots of FOCUS on FOCUS, we want our members to be able to proudly promote our organization when out and about. We now have hats, visors and aprons. The hat and visors sell for \$15 and the apron for \$20. They are very good quality with logo and lettering embroidered. We will have them at our August and September meetings, as well as available when our new website launches next month. If you want one sooner, just send a note to info@focus-sdkids.org and we will get it to you

Meetings

VP, Lisa Storey

We apologize for the last minute cancellation of our July event. We certainly missed the opportunity to come together for a fun evening. But, we have a couple of great events planned for August and September.

August 24th Movie Night at the Cays Yacht Club

We are scheduled for a movie night at the Yacht Club on Tuesday August 24th at 7pm. We will have a meeting and social hour while we wait for darkness and movietime. The bar will be open at the Yacht Club. Bring your blankets for the grass and we will have chairs available.

FOCUS Annual Meeting on September 16th at the Sig & Helen Kupka's Lovely Home

This is a very special meeting which will feature a guest agency speaker, entertainment and catered food. More details to follow but please get this reserved on your calendar.

Coronado Shores 50th Anniversary - August 28th

FOCUS has been invited to have a booth at the Shores 50th Anniversary celebration. We will need 2 people to man the table from 12-8pm. This could be a great membership opportunity. (They are only letting 10 vendors in and FOCUS is one due to the cancellation of our July activity) No charge. We will be allowed to have 3 or 4 raffle baskets to raise funds. Please contact us at info@focus-sdkids.org if you can take a 2 hour shift at our booth. Much appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP

V.P. Lorna Perez-Caster

Our membership continues to grow with 3 additional members this month. This brings our membership to a total of 123.

Active Members: 69 Patron Members: 54

Please add the following members to your membership directory.

Denise Donato-McConnell

Patrick McConnell

Joann Palmer

Lynda Pippenger

Ron Verneti

Please continue spreading the word about the great work of FOCUS. If you know of anyone who may have an interest in perhaps becoming a FOCUS member, please forward their mailing address to lcaster@focus-sdkids.org and an information packet will be sent to them.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to all of our members celebrating their birthday this month!



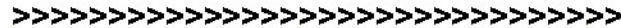
Vicki Morris	8/04
Suzanne DeLaVergne	8/05
Marcia Hughes	8/10
Arie Van Vugt	8/11
Mary Davidson	8/14
Roger Clapp	8/16
Alice Rodriguez	8/18
Ed Morris	8/21
Marriana Polles	8/28

1st VP / FUNDRAISING

Sharyn Blongiewicz

**Thank you to the many hardworking volunteers that made the
2021 Rummage Sale the most profitable ever.**

We exceeded \$10,000!!



The Holiday Boutique is coming up soon and we are back - **in person** - at CCYC this year!! Many vendors ~ old and new ~ are already signed up.

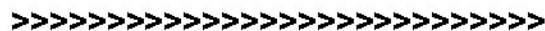
Boutique Co-Chair and Helpers Needed Please consider supporting this wonderful day of fun, friendship and shopping by donating a few hours of your time.

Contact me with any questions about any of the volunteer descriptions.

Sharyn: 619-921-2026 (call or text!)

Yuletide Magic, December 18th gala plans are well underway ...you all have it on your calendar...**right?** There is a committee already hard at work; but there's still room for you to help. It is shaping up to be the most elegant, festive, fun and innovative FOCUS party ever.

We need the help of **EVERYONE** to contribute auction items ~ large and small. **Please start NOW to donate and/or solicit items to be auctioned.** We need services, food, merchandise, travel, entertainment and gift cards of all kinds; use your imagination to think of the kinds of items that you or your friends would bid on in an auction.



We need YOUR help with 2021 Fundraising!

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

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

CHAMPAGNE, MUSIC,
ELEGANT PASTRIES AND COFFEES WHILE YOU SHOP

DOZENS OF FABULOUS ITEMS...
LADIES FASHION & ACCESSORIES, HOME & GARDEN
DECOR, CHRISTMAS & THANKSGIVING DECORATIONS,
ART, JEWELRY, PLANTS, LUGGAGE & TOTES, PET
ACCESSORIES, PILLOWS, KITCHEN WARE, JAMS &
FOODS AND MUCH, MUCH MORE.

*Happy Holidays!!
We're back at CCYC ... in person!
See you there!!*



FOCUS
FRIENDS OF CHILDREN UNITED SOCIETY

Coronado Cays Yacht Club
30 Caribe Cay Blvd.
10 am ~ 2 pm

Saturday, November 20

\$10.00

All proceeds benefit San Diego children

PROJECTS

Barbara Donahue and Carim Cross

We recently bought new Chromebooks for Navity Prep School



BACKPACK PROGRAM

We are so pleased to be able to restore our BackPack Program this year with a record donation of 500. This is another project that requires a lot of support from our FOCUS members. All of this was done in record time with such an incredible team. Special thanks to Jeri Barsz, Jean Bauer, Vicki Bernitt, Sharyn Blongiewicz, Nanci Copley, Carin Cross, Barbara Donahue, Jennifer Evans, Leslie Granger, Marie Hamilton, Ethel Kallsen, Fred Kallsen, Lorna Perez-Caster, Linda Pippinger, Pam Plumbley, Ed Robitaille, Pat Robitaille, Carolyn Rogerson, Kaye Sharp, Sharon Shelton, Sharon Sherman, Dotty Turner, Jon Webster, and Heidi Wilson.

CCSA picking up 80 backpacks in van FOCUS donated last year.



Member Jon Webster and brother Jeremy loading his Hummer with BackPacks for Casa Cornelia delivery.



FOCUS Financial Report for July 2021

Sharon Shelton



Balance as of 1 Jun 2021

Available for Projects	\$14,752.57
Grant Allocation	\$47,500.00
Reserve	\$25,000.00

Income

Rummage Sale	+\$ 9,076.75
Membership	+\$ 372.50
Holiday Boutique	+\$ 1,116.75
<u>Donations</u>	<u>+\$ 1,225.00</u>
Total	\$ 11,791.00

Expenses (Projects) -\$ 1,286.90

Balance as of 30 Jun 2021

Available Projects	\$25,258.02
Grant Allocation	\$47,500.00
Reserve	\$25,000.00

USING ZELLE. FOCUS starting using ZELLE (in 2021) to expedite repayment of our shoppers. If concerns about having a large sum of money charged to credit card has kept you from volunteering to shop – have no fear. Set up a Zelle account through your bank or financial institution and you can be reimbursed DIRECTLY into your account in minutes! Just ask Roger Clapp (who does a LOT of shopping for FOCUS) how well it works.



MEMBERS in the SPOTLIGHT

Paul & LESLIE GRANGER

by Don Swanson

You may know Paul and Leslie Granger, but do you really know them? Mild mannered, and patient they are, but there is a spirit of adventure within them as well. After getting married in San Francisco on June 21st, 1969, the young couple embarked on a six month journey across the United States in a Volkswagen bug. The kind with a soft top that retracted to allow the fresh air to come into the cabin..

Many of you may know the story of when they took Rocinante, the trusted steed of Don Quixote, but in this case, a 38 foot sailing vessel, from the Coronado Cays deep into the South Pacific for almost five months. A sailing journey that included a disabled rudder. But without fear, they pushed on, and eventually arrived in the tropical isles, and enjoyed the comradery of newly acquired friends, sights which they will remember forever, and conquered adversity with many cherished memories.

This couple pursues life to the fullest. The two charities which they have targeted are **Honor Flight**, and **FOCUS**. Honor Flight is an organization which flies WWII vets, and Korean War vets to Washington D.C., and gives them the opportunity to see the Veteran's War Memorial, and other sights at our nation's capital for three fun-filled days. The vets are accompanied by a guardian, which sometimes is a family member. All expenses for each service veteran is paid for by donations received by Honor Flight, a fitting tribute to our nation's heroes.

The vets board a chartered plane at the San Diego Airport, and Paul tells the story of a 91 year old WWII vet who walked from Point Loma to the San Diego Airport so he could join his fellow service survivors, and relate stories of their past. They are a proud group of men and women who are given the opportunity to see the beating heart of America, thanks to Honor Flight. It is Paul and Leslie Granger behind the scenes who assist in the arrangements, insure the aged veterans are comfortable, and they themselves are the recipients of new friends, as well as knowing they helped to honor these chosen individuals.

The "World's Friendliest Airline", the one with a smile on the nose of its fuselage, PacificSouthwest Airlines (PSA) saw Paul in the cockpit as Capatain. He is the one who said "Welcome, and enjoy your flight". When Paul graduated from San Francisco State University, he entered the United States Air Force which began his flying career. After a short stint in the Air Force, Paul began his thirty yearhitch with PSA.

Leslie was a flight stewardess when Paul proposed to her while she was doing a layover in San Francisco. The marriage put an end to her service in the skies, but allowed her to pursue a liberal arts degree, earn a teaching credential, and begin a career in teaching at the elementary school level, while Paul kept flying from point A to point Z.. Leslie continued to grow in her chosen profession, and along the way helped young students by earning a master's degree, becoming an assistant principal, followed by stepping up to be a school principal, all as an educator to children.

It was **Jeri Barsz** who introduced Paul and Leslie to FOCUS. Jeri's husband Bill flew for PSA too. And like their commitment to Honor Flight, the Grangers covet FOCUS with enthusiasm. 2015 saw Leslie take the reigns as president of FOCUS along with Suzanne Manuel, Sharyn Blongiewiez and Ethel Kallsen, each serving three months. Paul has helped at so many FOCUS activities, and last seen at the highly successful rummage sale in June of this year.

Walt Travis, is Leslie's 97 year old father, an ex-marine who landed on Guadalcanal in WWII. In 2011 he spotted an article about Honor Flight. Leslie helped him fill out the application, which helped launch the service of Paul and Leslie into this highly recognized organization. On August 15 of this year, Tom Rice, a Coronado resident, age 100, and a Honor Flight recipient will be jumping on the beach in front of the iconic Hotel Del Coronado. Tom Rice was a member of the famed Screaming Eagles, 501st Airborne Rangers that landed on Normandy Beach in France on June 6th, 1944. He taught at Chula Vista and Hilltop High Schools in Chula Vista for many years.

So whether it be Honor Flight, or FOCUS, the dedication of this dynamic duo to these organizations is monumental. I feel proud to have written their story, and admire what they have accomplished in their lives. Their love for each other, and their love for veterans and children cannot go unrecognized. Our nation's finest soldiers, and those kids that are in need of help, are the ones benefitting from the work done by **Paul and Leslie Granger**.

And to **Walt Travis**, a youthful 97, thank you for your service as well.

The spotlight and appreciation of their service is on them all.

