



FOCUS

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN UNITED SOCIETY



Pat Robitaille, President

FOCUS September 2021 Newsletter

Edited by Ethel Kallsen

August has been a month of vacations and back to school for many. Unfortunately, we are also seeing a rise in Covid infections and an impact on FOCUS. Some of our agencies are having to cancel programs which have constrained our support to them. Additionally, we are struggling with organizing in-person events due to sickness and concerns. I will be sending out a survey and hoping you can help with some suggestions. Our bi-laws state that we need to conduct at least 5 membership meetings per year. As many of you know, we tried to have an awesome outdoor movie night on the 24th, but it just didn't draw attendance such that we could proceed with the planned events. As board members, we put a tremendous amount of time and effort into the planning and execution, But we are also very aware that there are any number of reasons why our members are not coming out. Please take the time to help us understand how to better plan by answering the survey when you receive it.

For now, we are holding off on membership meetings and will monitor the situation closely. Our annual meeting that we planned for September 18 at the Kupka's home is being cancelled due to Covid concerns at an indoor event.

Although we have not seen many of you at meetings, I must report that we have had a banner year of support for all of our projects. So many of you have participated and/or made donations. I am personally overwhelmed by your ongoing support. We have a lot to be proud of and continue to do many great things for the kids of San Diego. Thank you so much for your continued commitment to our cause.

FOCUS MEDALLION AT CORONADO WELCOME SIGN With our new logo, it was important to update the FOCUS medallion at the Coronado Welcome sign on Orange Avenue at 3rd. These are now made and awaiting the city Public Works department to get them installed. Take a look when you drive into the City.

NEW WEBSITE UPDATE We are still working hard to get our new website ready for launch. In addition to all the design and process updates, we had a tremendous amount of new content that needed development. As such, this project is taking a little longer. Look forward to our announcement next month. It is going to be Great!

Lorna Perez-Caster, V.P.

MEMBERSHIP

Our total membership is now 125.

Active Members: 71

Patron Members: 54

Please add the following names to your membership directory.

Daphne Fields (renewal)

Mary Margaret Omohundro (new member)

Please contact Lorna Perez-Caster at lcaster@focus-sdkids.org if you have any questions regarding membership or if you would like information about becoming a FOCUS member mailed to someone who may be interested.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



Bob Plumbley 9/1

Genie Brown 9/7

Karen Butler 9/7

Pam Plumbley 9/24

Vicki Bernitt 9/23

Fran Becker 9/25

Joann Palmer 9/30

Fundraising 1st VP

Sharyn Blongiewicz

Important Messages ... PLEASE take time to read and Consider!!

Happily, the FOCUS Holiday Boutique will be back at CCYC this year. Vendors old and new have already reserved their spaces. Once again, Marjorie Logan has volunteered to be in charge of our "FOCUS Table". She will be looking for donations of items new and old ... but saleable!!

My co-chair, Lisa Alves and I will be contacting you all at a later date to ask for your help. This fun and important event takes many, many volunteers.

Thank you Herlinda Sandoval-Ryan, for volunteering to be in charge of the food table. She will be requesting your donations of cookies, pastries, fruit, etc for our complimentary snack table.

Sadly, due to Covid uncertainties, the YULETIDE MAGIC gala has been canceled. An event of this magnitude requires months of advance planning, contracts, promotion, etc. and there is no way to know if we would be able to safely entertain up to 250 FOCUS members and friends in an enclosed room for several hours.

Please note that we had to cancel our 2020 "Godfather Gala". Our 2019 Cinco de Mayo party generated 70%+ of the revenue that year ~ so clearly these events are immensely important to our ongoing efforts to help children.

Thank you to the Yuletide Magic committee that has already worked so hard to plan what was to be a festive and elegant affair;

- =Carla Bacon
- =Ethel Kallsen
- =Don Swanson
- =Jeri Barsz
- =Sharon Shelton
- =Vickie Bernitt
- =Pat Robitaille
- =Lois Maxam
- =Carin Cross
- =Betty Lepore
- =Pam Plumbley
- =Heidi Wilson
- =Rochelle Vallejo

All FOCUS Members: In lieu of the gala, a committee is already working hard on PLAN B. Please stand by to hear more and when you do ... please give the alternative plans your support.



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
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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 Carin Cross

(From Casa Cornelia)

I send warmest greetings to Pat, Carin, and Barbara. We are immensely grateful for your kind donation of backpacks for our young student clients once again this year. Thank you! You helped make the kids' start of school possible for many and their mothers and families so so happy!

Our staff was very excited to be able to have this opportunity to share this gift with clients and they have been giving out the filled backpacks steadily since last week. On behalf of the many children and their families we serve, we send a message of thanks and joy.

Many blessings to you at FOCUS (and Jon Webster!) who made this all possible.

Warmest regards, Carmen



Clothes from FOCUS for Urban Street Angels. Thanks to **Kaye Sharp** for organizing.

Urban Street Angels Clothing Drive

Thank you to all our members who provided donations to restock the Clothing Closet for homeless teens. It was a great response and member, **Nanci Copley**, is hard at work distributing the clothing.

Back to School

Some agencies had Drive By "Back to School" parties to distribute school supplies. To co-ordinate with the party at **Christie's Place**, Pat and Ed Robitaille shopped for hours to purchase 100 pairs of new school shoes. We really appreciate your work.

Two projects have been temporarily cancelled due to COVID-**Burrito Boyz** and **New Alternatives**. **San Diego MOM** lunch box project was also cancelled due to a change in their plans.

We thank Clarice Perkins, who is shopping for **United Through Reading** this month.

FOCUS Financial Report for July 2021

Balance as of 1 July 2021

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



Income

Rummage Sale	\$ 190.00
Membership	\$ 365.30
Holiday Boutique Booths	\$ 386.00
Insurance Dividend	\$ 135.21
<u>Donations</u>	<u>\$ 10,826.50</u>
Total	\$ 11,903.01

Expenses

Projects	\$ 9,989.23
Insurance Premium	\$ 131.07
<u>Advertising/Visors, etc.</u>	<u>\$ 492.12</u>
Total	-\$ 10,612.42

Balance as of 31 July 2021

Available for Projects	\$26,549.84
Grant Allocation	\$47,500.00
Reserve	\$25,000.00

Thanks so much to Roger Clapp for his VERY generous donation in July of \$10,000.00! We appreciate you putting your money where your heart is – helping local children!

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



Member in the Spotlight **JEAN ROESCH**

Jean has been president, and a member of the Soroptimist International of Coronado since 1990. An organization which has demonstrated time and time again, a positive impact on women and girls in the community. The Coronado affiliation of the Soroptimist International will be celebrating its 75th anniversary on October 25, 2022

Jane Russell, who starred in such films as *The Outlaw* (1943), *The Paleface* (1948), and *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (1953) was a champion for Children. During the 1950's, the actress founded WAIF, an organization working on behalf of American children living in foster care and institutions. Jane Russell also championed the passage of the Federal Orphan Adoption Amendment of 1953.

Jane Russell came to the home of Rosemary Pettit in Green Turtle, Coronado Cays, and helped start what we now know as Friends of Children United Society (FOCUS). That was back before the internet in the 1980's.

Jean Roesch was invited to attend this historical meeting with the Hollywood star at the home of Rosemary Pettit. She had another engagement, but it was shortly thereafter that she joined the newly formed FOCUS under the leadership of Rosemary Pettit.

Jean Roesch is a star of her own. Jean and her husband Gil moved to the Cays in 1975. They had five children, three girls and two boys. All together their children have given them 6 grandchildren.

Jean's entire life has been dedicated to children. She holds the title of doctor, with a Ed.D .in Education Administration. She has taught at Gladstone High School in Azusa, California. She was Dean of Girls and then vice principal at Covina High School in Covina, California. She was director of Alternative Programs, and Academic/Guidance Counselor at the Sweetwater Union High School District in Chula Vista, California.

She served twelve years as a trustee on the Coronado Unified School Board, and elected, and then served 12 years on the Southwestern College Board of Trustees. Dr. Roesch also is on the Southwestern College Foundation Board of Directors providing scholarships for disadvantaged students.

As a member of the Executive Board of Directors, and Chairwoman of the Human Relations Committee of Goodwill Industries she was awarded the Volunteer of the Year in 2016. On receiving the award Jean so eloquently stated,

"Through my own child, I experienced the importance and necessity of preparing and training those with disabilities for a brighter future, to be productive, accomplished in a skill, and to be a proud individual.

Our young men and women are our leaders of tomorrow. While some face tremendous obstacles, they can excel when offered the opportunity."

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Jean is an avid tennis player, and is well-above average. She started playing at age 8. The most memorable tournament she played in was mixed doubles in Palm Springs. Winning the tournament was exciting, but her partner just so happened to be another Hollywood movie star, Charlton Heston She was on the Coronado Tennis Association Board of Directors from 2005 to 2007.

Jean was president of FOCUS in 1993 and 1994. FOCUS shopper, board of directors, programs and a number of other volunteer chores for FOCUS which can also be added to Jean's resume.

Jean is indeed a FOCUS star. A person well-deserving of all the accolades bestowed upon her, and a person who without question should be spotlighted in our newsletter for all to read about and applaud. Someone who really cares about "...Our young men and women are our leaders of tomorrow. While some face tremendous obstacles, they can excel when offered the opportunity.'"



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