



November 2021 Newsletter



Message from the President, Pat Robitaille

October was a great month for FOCUS. While we continued our incredible work in supporting the San Diego kids in need, we also had four wonderful opportunities to come together as an organization.



On October 7, the board hosted a New Member Happy Hour at my home. It was a delightful evening and we were very excited to meet new member Denise Donato-McConnel and her husband Patrick. We look forward to having them join us for subsequent events.

On October 21, Sharyn put together a great mini-fundraiser with shopping at Sea La Vie and wine/shopping at Vom Foss. It was enjoyable to see so many FOCUS members come out and help us raise some money. Many thanks to Sharyn for her creativity and countless hours creating new opportunities for fundraising. Incredible job!

October 26th was another fun day at the Cay Yacht Club. So many (25) showed up to help put together candy bags for the Coronado Halloween event. It was great fun to see so many, ready us for a community event, and have a few laughs. We put together nearly 500 bags to hand out. Thank you Lisa Storey for creating the venue for us.



And finally on October 29th, we had so much fun in the FOCUS Booth at the Coronado Halloween Party in the Park. Special thanks to so many members who showed up in costumes and helped with handing out candy and organizing the games. Special thanks to Ed Robitaille for making the Halloween themed “bean bag toss” and “ring toss” games. Excellent participation by FOCUS at a community event!



Meetings Report from Exec. VP, Lisa Storey

I am pleased to report that we will once again be hosting the Coronado Cays Holiday Boat Parade. This year it will take place on Saturday, December 11th. Visit www.parade21.givesmart.com to register your boat for participation or get tickets to attend. We hope to see you there for lots of fun and entertainment.





Financial Report from Treasurer, Sharon Shelton

FOCUS Financial Report for Sep 2021

Balance as of 1 Sep 2021

Available for Projects	\$ 14,335.54
Grant Allocation	\$ 47,500.00
Reserve	\$ 25,000.00

Income

City of Coronado Grant	\$ 16,253.00
Holiday Boutique	\$ 916.29
Rummage Sale/Mtg	\$ 130.00
Membership	\$ 150.00
Donations	\$ 1,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 201.00
TOTAL	\$ 18,650.29

Expenses

Projects	\$ 9,667.51
Insurance Premium	\$ 131.07
Advertising/Marketing	\$ 325.70
TOTAL	\$ 10,124.28

Balance as of 30 Sep 2021

Available for Projects	\$ 22,862.78
Grant Allocation	\$ 47,500.00
Reserve	\$ 25,000.00

Special thanks to members of MB2 Band (Mike Palumbo, Brian Goelz, and Brian Buel) for their donation of \$250 this month.



Fundraising Report from 1st VP, Sharyn Blongiewicz

SHOPPING & HAPPY HOUR

Last week, we had a well attended shopping afternoon at the new Sea le Vie gift store location followed by a delightful Happy Hour in the lovely Vom Fass shop. It was a mini-fundraiser with a percent of sales going to FOCUS. Thank you to all who joined us ~ it was a very pleasant afternoon and a great opportunity to see old friends. Thank you, too, to John Lepore who surprised us with his purchase of several trays of appetizers to enjoy with our wine. Also, thank you to Wesley Grounds for his beautiful and creative flyer regarding the event.

FOCUS HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE / SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20 / 10AM - 2PM

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

We are so happy to be holding our FOCUS Holiday Boutique at CCYC. It has always been a favorite event for members and friends. It is a wonderful way to kick-off the holiday season and a great opportunity to shop for unique, special and beautiful holiday gifts!

The group of vendors this year is really fun and special ... lots of familiar faces and products and lots of new ones. Once again, CCYC will be making a lunch menu available so plan to make a day of it. Please see the flyer for details.

Wondering how you can help??? You'll be hearing from FOCUS member, Sharron Rowley. She will be requesting your donation of cookies, muffins, breads, pastries, fruit, cheese etc. for our very popular, complimentary snack table. With 200-300 people in attendance, we need lots and lots of goodies!!

ALSO.... Please forward the boutique flyer to all friends, neighbors and family!! We need as many shoppers as possible!!



Projects Report 2nd VPs, Barbara Donahue & Carin Cross



Giving Tree returning to the Holiday Boutique

After a great success in 2019, we will once again have a Giving Tree at the November 21 Holiday Boutique. We are working with ASYMCA. As many of you know, ASYMCA serves primarily junior-enlisted military families who by San Diego's Area Median Income limits are considered "low-income". The agency will send us wishlists from a number of their children. The boys and girls with their ages and wishlists will adorn our Giving Tree. Please think about choosing a child and making his or her Christmas a Merry one.



October Funded Projects

SAN DIEGO MILITARY OUTREACH MINISTRIES

San Diego Military Outreach serves junior enlisted families, using many volunteer helpers. They have continued throughout the pandemic, using socially distanced drop-offs to provide diapers, wipes, food, school supplies. They also provide baby furniture, car seats, etc. when needed.

Request: Their emergency supply warehouse is in need of: four (4) cribs and mattresses, two (2) high chairs, and two (2) baby swings

Amount: \$1,800

Our recent project to purchase lunch boxes with SD MOM was cancelled due to a timing conflict. This would be funded from The Linda Dorn Grant.

NEW DIRECTIONS (Casa De Amparo)

This is a transitional housing program for young adults-18-25, who are emancipated or currently in foster care, with the goal of equipping them with the skills and resources to succeed in independent living. They are recently authorized to increase the program to 60 participants from 45.

Request: Twenty (20) bed frames, eight (8) rugs, ten (10) lamps, and one (1) dresser.

Amount: \$2,300



Membership Report from 3rd VP, Lorna Perez-Caster

Our current total membership is 127.

Active Members: 73

Patron Members: 54

Please add the following name to your membership directory

Derry Cowley Bowman (renewal)

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.

.....

Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your FOCUS membership for 2022. As you know, membership dues are a valuable source of income, allowing us to continue providing support to the many underprivileged children within San Diego County. Unfortunately, like last year, COVID prevented us from hosting our annual Membership Reception in September, which is the typical kick-off for our membership drive. All membership payments made after November 1 will be credited towards your 2022 dues.

You may renew your membership through our website at:

<https://focus-sdkids.org/membership/>

We accept both credit and debit cards, as well as Paypal payments on our website. If you prefer, renewals may also be made by mailing a check, payable to FOCUS, to:

FOCUS,

P.O. Box 180023,

Coronado, CA 92178.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Lorna Perez-Caster at lcaster@focus-sdkids.org or 760-470-4666



Wishing a very happy birthday to all of our members
celebrating their birthday this month!

Marsha Buckley-Boyle	11/01
Jennifer Evans	11/02
Dave Fleck	11/02
Carol Dobi	11/16
Herlinda Sandoval-Ryan	11/18
Sharron Rowley	11/21
Steve Bowman	11/24
Ed Robitaille	11/26



Member Spotlight by Don Swanson



Meet FOCUS Member Bob Jones

I knew Paul Pettit, long before I met Rosemary Pettit. I knew Fred Kallsen before I met Ethel. I knew Rolf Yngue before I knew Sharon Shelton. All of these men were married to distinguished FOCUS members. That being said, I knew Robert Jones, husband of Betty Jones, long before I knew him as Bob Jones. Let me explain.

Long, long ago, Robert Jones established a veterinary clinic in Bonita, California. Long, long ago equates to sixty, or seventy years, which was in the 1950's. Our family dog visited his clinic when I was a small boy. But this is not where the Bob Jones story begins.

Bob grew up on a small farm outside of Denver, Colorado, in a village called Wheat Ridge, which is now on Interstate 70. The elevation of Wheat Ridge is 5,459 feet above sea level. Just like the nursery rhyme, on his farm he had a cow, and a horse, and a few chickens, and rabbits too. He had three brothers, and along with Bob, all four of the Jones's boys joined the Navy, and fortunately all survived the war.

Bob attended veterinary school after the war on the G.I. bill, and after graduation he practiced his trade before moving to California in the early 1950's. Where Peohe's restaurant in Coronado now stands today, is where Bob first worked as a veterinarian in San Diego. He used to go to Clayton's for lunch on a regular basis.

To increase his income he also worked at the La Jolla Veterinary Hospital, as well as the Caliente race track in Tijuana, Mexico working with both the horses and the racing dogs. He told how some dog races were actually fixed to insure a certain dog would win. The owners would bind two or three of their toes together to decrease the spread of the dog's feet, thereby limiting their traction and not being able to compete at full capacity. Bob's task was to examine each dog prior to being put into the starting gates, which is where the unscrupulous owners did their bad activities.

He met Betty while she was visiting her aunt's family in La Jolla. A small group of her cousins' friends, along with Bob, took Betty grunion hunting off the Marina Room beach, but never encountered any grunion; a small fish, five or six inches in size and the female buries herself in the sand, tail first, at high tide, and the male wraps himself around her to deposit his sperm. Ten days later, at high tide, the eggs hatch and the young grunion enter into the sea.

Before returning to her hometown in Canada, Betty was given a tour of San Diego by Bob in a red MG, like the one used in the old television series McMillan and wife, the murder mystery show. The MG belonged to the owner of the animal hospital in La Jolla, but generously offered the car to Bob to help insure a successful romance with Betty. She also had a suitor in Canada, but Bob was relentless in his pursuit of her, and eventually they married.

Bob started his own practice on Sweetwater Road in the fifties, and after a couple of years Bob constructed a new hospital on the western side of Glen Abbey Cemetary on Bonita Road. He was there for forty years before he sold his business. They lived on a 19 acre parcel by Sunnyside Elementary School for thirty years. Their four children, three boys and a girl, were raised on this property along with chickens, horses, sheep, a cow, cats and dogs, as well as guinea pigs.

Betty tells the story of an African lion used by a circus in Mexico that had a baby cub. The circus had no use for two lions so the young lion ended up with the circus pilot's family in Mexico. This 90 pound feline cat resided with the Jones for a three or four day period recovering from surgery, because the lion's scent disturbed the hospitalized dogs. He even practiced his trade at the San Diego Zoo prior to the zoo having their own.

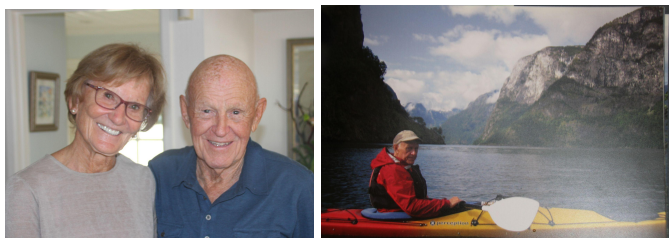
Bob's story does not end here. After retiring from selling his business he became a consultant for other veterinarians, and then in his late seventies, decided to go hiking and kayaking around the world. He has kayaked in 7 continents, and 27 countries in jaunts of one week to up to six weeks in duration, while Betty attended to the Children's Hospital in Mexico. His favorite spot for kayaking was on the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia, which is between the Sea of Okhotsk on the west and the Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea on the east. He has kayaked there on the river as well as on the ocean.

If you want a good sleeping bag, make sure it is not duck down, but goose down, which provides better insulation in cold weather, says Bob.

He also tells of the bonding of young children with dogs, a well-known practice for young children who have social adjustment issues.

There is so much more to the story and stories of Robert Jones the veterinarian, as well as Bob Jones the world kayaker and hiker. He has always loved animals, and I can assure you that they loved him as well.

You already know about the work of Betty Jones and the Children's Hospital of Mexico, now you also know about her husband Bob Jones, who enjoys living in the Cays, having wonderful neighbors, swimming, kayaking, and/or walking daiily, and being the person the FOCUS spotlight shines on.





PO Box 180023
Coronado, Ca 92178
www.focus-sdkids.org