

## August 2022 Newsletter



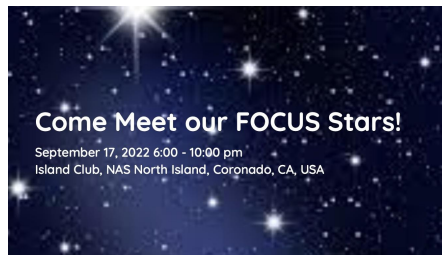
### Message from the President, Pat Robitaille

I would like to thank our FOCUS Board of Directors for all their hard work during July. I was vacationing most of the month with trips to Puget Sound, Utah National Parks of Bryce, Zion, and Cedar Breaks, Paso Robles and San Francisco Bay Area. We had a wonderful time with family and friends all the while knowing there were great activities occurring at FOCUS.



Special thanks to Ethel Kallsen and Mary Shapiro for chairing a very successful backpack project. While the delay in backpack shipments caused a last minute scramble to reschedule, they managed to bring out a great team of folks to transport and unpack 2,811.40 lbs of school supplies as well as pick up and pack 748 backpacks. Seventeen agencies were the recipients of the backpacks and most were delivered by FOCUS members. This was a record number of backpacks for us made possible by the fundraising generosity of our members and supporters.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our Annual Membership Meeting on September 17th. Special thanks to Therese Pallares and Denise Donato- McConnell for co-chairing this wonderful event. See more details in Denise's report. Looking forward to seeing you then and all the potential FOCUS members that you invite to join us that evening.





**Executive VP,  
Donato-McConnell**



**Denise**

***What an amazing July!***  
**Our Members Gather to Play A Hands-On Role in the FOCUS Mission!**



At this year's **4th of July parade**, members and their families proudly displayed banners as they walked and road in everything from a decorated golf cart to bikes, to a wheelchair! Special thanks to **Doreen Acampor**, a new member, who took on the huge task of organizing this



event. FOCUS is grateful to Doreen's hard work and the gracious hospitality of **Betty and John Lepores** who allowed us to decorate and gather at their beautiful home.

The weather was warm but nothing could stop us from sharing our mission with our Coronado neighbors and the extended community! It was so wonderful to hear how we were recognized at each of the grandstands for our amazing work!

**Members Create Our Most Successful Backpack Project!**

A huge thank you to **Ethel Kallsen** and **Mary Shapiro** for the amazing job they did chairing this important project! This year we had to serve a much greater need combined with the challenges supply issues. However, with the support of our volunteer members who came together to organize, compile, pack and deliver the backpacks, they arrived at each agency in time! Thank you to all who volunteered! The room was filled with a sense of pride and an atmosphere of fun as everyone worked together to make a difference in the lives of **over 700 elementary and middle school**



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**FOCUS is  
excited to invite  
you to be part of  
our next event  
Night of Stars!**



FOCUS, an organization created here in Coronado, has been helping local children in crisis for 40 years. Yet there are still those in our community and SD who are unfamiliar with the FOCUS mission! Many of us have had the experience of friends, or even family, who know our dedication to this organization asking “remind me... what does FOCUS do?”

This lovely evening will be the perfect opportunity to introduce the mission of FOCUS to your friends and family. It will focus on why FOCUS does what it does, what it is that FOCUS does to make a difference and how they can become a part of this amazing organization.

All the while having fun and celebrating the work of our FOCUS members and partners.

The evening will begin at 6pm. On your way to registration, you will pass the “FOCUS Walk of Fame” displaying Stars purchased by members to recognize those whose contributions have made the FOCUS mission possible.

As you enter the venue, the seasoned entertainer Gary Burt in the style of “Frank Sinatra” will greet you as he sings you into the cocktail hour. View the banners and testimonials of the 8 causes that your time and efforts have supported. Then enjoy a beverage from the Open Bar as you watch the sunset over the ocean.

At 7pm, you will be invited to dinner. You will have preselected from one of three entrees:

1. Chicken Piccata (lemon capers, elegance of white wine & fresh parsley)
2. Herbed Salmon Fillet (baked with fresh herbs and lemon butter)
3. Tri-color tortellini with cream pesto sauce and vegetables)

All meals include salad and rolls and meat entrees also include roasted potatoes and a vegetable medley.

After dinner there will be a presentation which will include the inspiring FOCUS video celebrating the important work we do and how it is making a difference for SD’s most vulnerable children. It will conclude with an opportunity drawing for a chance to have an actual star named after you, or a loved one, and registered in the international space registry.

As the stars fill the sky on the venue patio, you will be invited to enjoy a special dessert bar. Spend the remaining evening visiting with fellow and future members.

Hopefully, you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity and invite a few guests to enjoy this evening and learn about FOCUS. Or buy one of our limited tables and invite 4 other couples to share dinner at this ocean view venue. Certainly, a bargain at \$500 for 10 people to have dinner, an open bar, live music and a chance to learn how they too can make a difference in the lives of local children!

Reservations, STAR purchases and Membership are all at [www.focus-sdkids.org/event/nightofstars/](http://www.focus-sdkids.org/event/nightofstars/)



## We need your help

Please buy a star to recognize our “Stars”  
who you know have contributed to the suc-  
cess of the FOCUS mission to help San  
Diego’s most vulnerable children!

In celebration of 40 years of working with over 100 children’s aid charities to help over 100,000 children, we want to recognize those who have given so much time, effort, and resources to make this possible!

At our event, Night of Stars, on Saturday, September 17th, we will be creating “Stars” to be displayed on a “FOCUS Walk of Fame”. In this way, we hope to acknowledge the deep gratitude FOCUS has for the unwavering commitment of so many over the past 4 decades!

If you would like to see a star displayed for you or someone you feel deserves this special honor, we ask that you purchase one in their name. The cost of each star is only \$10. Please honor as many as you would like!

Even if you will not be able to join us that evening, we hope you will take a moment to purchase stars for those you know have made a difference over the years both past and present.

You might also want to purchase a star in your own name to celebrate all that you have done as a part of this important organization! After all, you deserve it too!

Stars should be purchased by August 31st. Hope to see you, and your star, on September 17th!

Thank you so very much for helping us recognize those who have made the FOCUS mission possible!

[www.FOCUS-SDKIDS.ORG/EVENT/NIGHTOFSTARS](http://www.FOCUS-SDKIDS.ORG/EVENT/NIGHTOFSTARS)





**Financial Report from Treasurers, Sharon  
Shelton & Kathy Tyner**

**ON VACATION !**

Look forward to a full report in next month's newsletter



**Projects Report: 2nd VPs, Sharyn Blongiewicz & Carin Cross**

## **Long awaited FOCUS Merchandise is now in stock!!!**

Please order on the website. I will contact you to confirm sizes and make arrangements for delivery or pick-up.

- Polo Shirts - men & women / \$35
- T-shirts - Unisex / \$25
- Hats / \$15
- Visors / \$15
- Aprons / \$20
- Masks / \$5

[www.focus-sdkids.org](http://www.focus-sdkids.org) - to order select the "shop" tab

[Sharynb-focus-sdkids.org](mailto:Sharynb-focus-sdkids.org) - info & questions!

## **Tolloties**

When traveling, please collect all your shampoos, conditioners, body washes etc. The homeless teen community that we serve is badly in need of these items. There is now a collection basket for drop-off at: **96 Antiqua Court.**

Thank you Lynda Pippenger!!!

## *Calling all new members...*

New to being a FOCUS shopper? Welcome!! When voting on Projects, please do not hesitate to also volunteer to shop. We will be happy to team you up with a seasoned shopper to "show you the ropes". Don't miss out on this most rewarding aspect of being a FOCUS member!

Carin & Sharyn

Projects 2022

[ccross@focus-sdkids.org](mailto:ccross@focus-sdkids.org)

[sharynb@focus-sdkids.org](mailto:sharynb@focus-sdkids.org)

## Projects July 2022

### Another busy month for FOCUS Projects!!

Shoppers; Amy Haines, Carolyn Rogerson, Heather Canton, Ryan Canton and representatives from **Christie's Place** all had a great time shopping at Van's for back-to-school shoes ... over 100 pairs!!



\*\*\*\*\*

**Voices for Children** ~ FOCUS provided 8 carseats and 8 booster seats to support the wonderful work that the CASA's do ~ helping guide San Diego foster children through the difficult and overwhelming court system.

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FOCUS supported **Aseltine School** summer food program for students that otherwise might not have adequate food! FOCUS Member and Program Support Liaison, Yoe Kusumoto, was the shopper. Thanks to FOCUS, she joyfully added \$750 groceries to their pantry for distribution over the summer.







*Camp I Can* enjoying books, toys and sensory equipment provided by *FOCUS*

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Once again, *FOCUS* was proud to support the amazing *Camp Able* in *Coronado!!*



## Membership VP's Barbara Donahue & Therese

### Pallares

We look forward to seeing you all at our very special "Night Of the Stars" on September 17th. It will be an amazingly fun event to bring someone that would like to learn about FOCUS. We welcome our newest member, Julianne Morris, who stepped right in and joined our FOCUS parade group, and our "Night of the Stars" committee.

Our hope and goal is to grow our membership as we need help by having more volunteers to shop for the projects, help organizing fun events for our members and non-members thereby continuing to raise funds for the agencies. In addition, you have the opportunity to renew your membership for 2023 when you sign up for Night of Stars.

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This month, we are pleased to report that we have added 8 new members! A Special welcome to:

#### Patron Members

Dan Donato

Gay Donato

#### Active Members

Dona Donato

Michael Kobert

Julianne Morris

Karin Morris (sister of Julianne)

Anne Nuttall

George Nuttall

Current Membership is:

Corporate Sponsors	-	4
Patron Members	-	63
Active Members	-	75

So for those of you who have yet to renew (or to join), please do so soon. Our website makes it quick and easy. Please use the following link for online renewals.

<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



VP, Publicity, Carolyn Rogerson

We welcome Carolyn Rogerson as our newest board member. Carolyn took on the role of Publicity for our Gala this year. She did such an amazing job of engaging the City of Coronado and so many of our wonderful publishers. We just new we needed her to help take FOCUS to the next level and encourage a great level of involvement in our wonderful cause. She agreed to take this on and has already made major contributions. We thank her for all her hard work and dedication.

—Pat Robitaille and the FOCUS Board of Directors

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From Carolyn:

Publicity is gearing up to have several new articles and ads prominently placed in Coronado publications. FOCUS is blessed w a new member, Juliane Morris who just happens to be a professional marketing wizard! Besides news publication and magazine articles and ads, look for a new eye catching social media blitz, created by Juliane Morris, informing everyone of FOCUS happenings. When you see one, send the link to everyone you know!

The Van's Shoe Project organized by Sharyn Blongiewicz and Carin Cross for agency Christie's Place was a great success. Note the young Coronado fellow in this photo is racking up Service Hours volunteering with FOCUS.



I had the pleasure of delivering backpacks this year and was very impressed with facilities of agency partner Interfaith Community Services in Escondito. They were very grateful for 50 of the back to school backpacks.

Ethel Kallsen and Mary Shapiro did another outstanding job organizing the Backpack Project!





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

**Aug 1 - Jean Roesch**

**Aug 4 - Len Hunt**

**Aug 4 - Vicki Morris**

**Aug 5 - Suzanne De La Vergne**

**Aug 7 - Carolyn Rogerson**

**Aug 9 - Sharon Shelton**

**Aug 10 - Marcia Hughes**

**Aug 11 - Ari Van Vugt**

**Aug 14 - Mary Davidson**

**Aug 16 - Roger Clapp**

**Aug 17 - Mary Margaret Omohundro**

**Aug 18 - Alice Rodriguez**

**Aug 21 - Ed Morris**

**Aug 25 - Marjorie Logan**

**Aug 28 - Marianna Polles-**

Many of you have not provided us with your birthday so we are unable to acknowledge you.  
When you renew your membership, please provide your birthday so that we can update our  
files.

# FOCUS Merchandise

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S POLO SHIRTS,  
T-SHIRTS, HATS, APRONS, VISORS AND MASKS.

Each has our new logo beautifully embroidered on them.

All great quality - wear them proudly and get our name out there!!

. Please shop on our website. We will contact you for your size selections and we  
will deliver

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



# Corporate Sponsors

We thank you!



"I am very proud to be a part of FOCUS as it has consistently benefited so many children and persons in need for decades."

*Wishing much success, health and happiness for a wonderful 2022."*



**THERESE PALLARES**

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**1551 Fourth Avenue, #101, SD  
Tasting Room Wed-Sat 4-8pm**

We are importers of artisanal wines from sustainable, small production vineyards in Italy, France, Spain, Australia, and New Zealand. The families and winemakers behind every bottle of wine we offer are as charming and as interesting as the wines themselves. It is our goal to bridge the gap between the winemaker and the wine drinker – to keep the stories behind the wine alive until the cork is popped and the wine can speak for itself.



# AMAZON SMILE

## ANOTHER WAY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR FOCUS!

### Steps for shopping on Amazon Smile

1. Go to the website [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)
2. Log in just the same as you do with Amazon.com, using the same username and password.
3. On your first visit to Amazon Smile, you'll be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive donations. Search for **Friends of Children United Society Coronado** and select it.
4. Proceed with placing your order as you usually do.
5. Amazon Smile will remember your charity selection so that future eligible orders will result in a donation to FOCUS.



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