

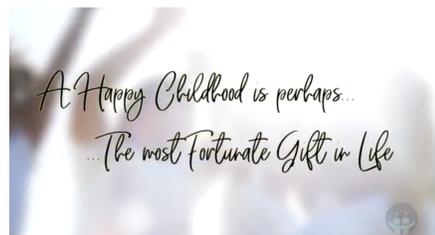
June 2022 Newsletter



Message from the President, Pat Robitaille



Thanks to our many donors and supporters, our May Ruby Gala was our most profitable in the 40 year history of FOCUS. A very, very special thank you to the tremendous leadership of our gala chairperson Lisa Alves (and to her husband Mike for sharing so many of her hours with us). Check out her article and great pics of the event.



For our Gala, Denise Donato-McConnell put together a new FOCUS video that really helps share the message of what FOCUS is all about. Denise enlisted the help of her sister Dona and we are in their debt. Please take a few moments and have a look. It is on the homepage of our website at www.focus-sdkids.org. Please invite all your friends to view it and consider joining or donating to FOCUS, both of which can happen on our website.

The annual FOCUS Rummage Sale is on June 11th. Needed:

- Help with Donations on June 9th and 10th from 10-4pm and on the day of the sale June 11th from 7:30am to 2pm.. Just stop by the Coronado Cays HOA offices and let Roger know that you can assist. He will give you an immediate assignment.
- We need as many bags as you can donate for the sale. Please drop them off at the HOA offices on June 9/10th from 10-4pm.
- A truck or SUV to help with local deliveries. Please come by on June 11th and let Roger know.
- Lastly, can you store donations for us prior to the event. Let Roger know at roger.clapp@sbcglobal.net.



FOCUS **RUMMAGE SALE**
FRIENDS OF CHILDREN UNITED SOCIETY

Saturday, June 11
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Coronado Cays
HOA Parking Lot
505 Grand Caribe Causeway

TO DONATE:
We will gratefully accept your *gently* used items at the Grand Caribe Room, CC/HOA
Thursday June 9 / Friday June 10
Hours: 10 AM - 4 PM
Sorry ... No clothes, large furniture or old electronics will be accepted.

SHOP FOR GREAT BARGAINS:
June 11, Saturday 8 AM - 12:00 PM

Please put these dates on your calendar and remember...
ALL Proceeds Help San Diego Disadvantaged Kids.
FOCUS is an all volunteer 501(c)(3)
Donation receipts will be available upon request.

Info@focus-sdkids.org
roger.clapp@sbcglobal.net

We reserve the right to decline unusable, broken and/or un-saleable items.



Executive VP, Denise Donato-McConnell

It was only because of your hard work, dedication, and generosity that we were able to generate record breaking donations at our Ruby Gala! Sharing with our Gala guests the work that our organization does to help children in need, truly inspired their generosity!

Since that night, members have been asking what they can do to help keep the message of our important work in the minds and hearts of our community. Here is your chance to make a huge difference in sharing the important work we do to help San Diego's most vulnerable children.

Coronado 4th of July Parade



We have created banners for our eight causes and a front and back banner to be carried in the 4th of July Parade here in town. We need 10 teams to walk the parade route. Each team should be 2 people (or 4 people if you only want to walk half way). Bring the whole family and all your friends to join in the fun as we share with the community the importance of FOCUS!

We need you and are so grateful to our Membership for your help! Please volunteer by contacting our 4th of July Parade chairperson, Doreen Acampora at July4@focus-sdkids.org.

Save the Date - September 27th "Reach for the Stars at CCYC"

What a wonderful year of fabulous events in support of our mission! First, we celebrated Military charities at the iconic Ibar, then the elegant cocktail party and fabulous Gala! Our next event promises to be equally special and important! Join us on September 27th at the

beautiful Coronado Cays Yacht Club for an evening of dining and dancing under the stars! We will have an opportunity to celebrate our members and supporters for their dedication to FOCUS and our mission. We will also learn more about one of our important causes, the crisis of San Diego children experiencing homelessness. While this evening promises to be filled with joy and laughter for all our members and guests, your participation will also play a part in giving the most vulnerable the hope they need to reach for the stars. Space will be limited so make sure you, your family and friends mark your calendar for this amazing opportunity.

Annual Backpack Project

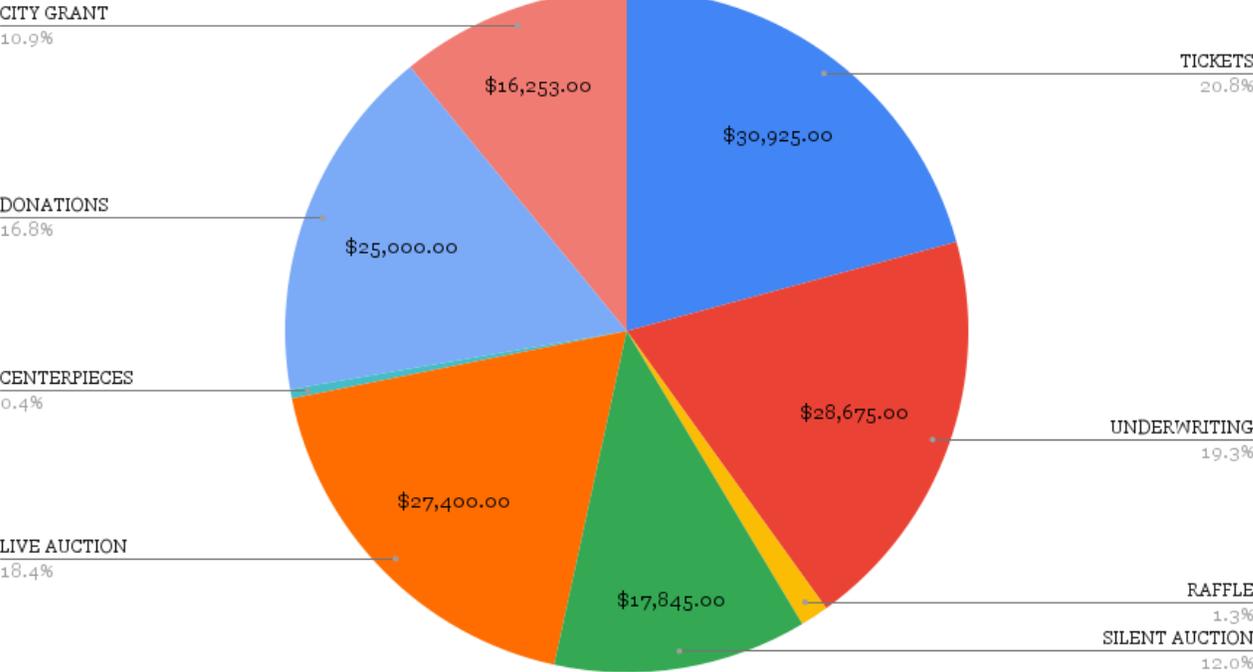
It's that time of year for us to be putting together backpacks. Last year, we assembled and delivered nearly 500. We are working on the schedule and budget right now for this year. Watch for a communication requesting your assistance. This is a project that requires lots of hands!



Financial Report from Treasurers, Sharon Shelton & Kathy Tyner

The Ruby Gala was a resounding success with net income of over \$107,000! Below represents our breakdown of gross income of over \$148,733 for the event. What a spectacular job of the entire gala committee, our sponsors, donors and attendees!

RUBY GALA INCOME



In our upcoming July newsletter, we will resume our standard financial report. Just thought you would be interested to see how well we performed across the board with this wonderful event. Suffice it to say, we will be able to help so many children in need this year!



Ruby Gala, Chairperson Lisa Alves

Our 40th Ruby Anniversary Gala was a great success, we were able to honor our history and make history in the same night! Thanks to our generous donors and guests with hearts of gold, we raised an unprecedented \$132,000 to support San Diego children in need.

The evening started, with our guests looking fabulous in their finest cocktail attire and were greeted with a glass of champagne and passed appetizers while they perused the silent auction. The silent auction had something for everyone, all donated by local community businesses, guests and members. Many of our members also took full advantage of bidding on line before the start of gala. We knew we were off to a stellar evening when the silent auction already raised \$9,000 before the evening started, history was just starting to be made!

Our guest entered the elegantly decorated community center to enjoy a delicious dinner starting with a flavorful seasonal mixed salad, perfectly prepared surf & turf entree and specially created Ruby Gala dessert to the delight of all.

During dinner, Pat Robitaille announced the 40th Anniversary Grant winners of The Youth Assistance Coalition, a volunteer homeless youth safe haven center and The Hidden Treasures Foundation's Tiffany's Place, dedicated to healing teenaged girls victimized by human trafficking.

Next up was the best FOCUS video production in our history. Denise Donato-McConnell flawlessly narrated our new Must See FOCUS video. The room fell silent as guests were treated to the wonder of FOCUS and absorbed the information regarding how all their donations would be supporting San Diego children in need.

The FOCUS video was the perfect prelude to our live auction. Auctioneer Jim Shirey, Sharon Shelton and our generous donors turned the room simply electric by creating one of the liveliest, entertaining and profitable live auctions in our history. It was amazing to watch and more thrilling to participate in!

After such an electrifying live auction our band came on stage and with the first song we had a packed dance floor. It was so much fun that at one point the Saxophone player joined us on the dance floor as he played and danced, adding to a fabulous evening of entertainment.

Honoring our history and the 40th anniversary FOCUS member, Don Swanson donated Ruby Gemstones for three lucky guests. The winners were randomly chosen by our partner agencies Urban Street Angels, Kids Turn and YMCA Armed Forces. What a perfect gift for a perfect evening.

I am honored to have had the privilege to chair such a historic event and the opportunity to witness our donors and members make history during our 40th Anniversary Ruby Gala.

Thank you to the board of directors, our committee chairpersons and their teams, our community, partner agencies and all our members, volunteers and donors for a fabulous evening that allowed us to fulfill our mission and do the best we can to support San Diego children in need. With your support we will always be able to achieve our mission, honor our history, and bring FOCUS to new historic heights.





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



Anniversary Grant Awarded



Youth Assistance Coalition (YAC) and Hidden Treasures Foundation, **Tiffany's Place**, shared the 40th Anniversary Grant and were honored at the Gala.

YAC's mission is to positively impact the lives of SD youth through community-based collaborations. When YAC is able to reach those in need, it is then that their journey can begin bringing them closer to their own personal potential.

Located in an underserved SD inner-city area the YAC Drop-in Center is now a safe place for homeless children. The center is busy with youth dropping in for a meal, a shower, a change of clothes and a place to enjoy crafts, do homework, visit, chat and laugh. These young people can connect with adults and confide their needs and dreams. Together they can develop a plan to get them into shelters, possibly into school or job training and other resources like medical, dental and mental health care.

FOCUS awarded Youth Assistance Coalition an in kind grant for planned improvements to their outdoor space. An inviting haven for youth gives them a sense of worth as they receive continued support from YAC mentors on their road to self-sufficiency.

Tiffany's Place believes that every girl exploited by modern day slavery is a hidden treasure. At their sanctuary, in a family style home, girls are given an opportunity to thrive. It is one of only 2 safe houses in the county providing wrap around services to children 12-18 years of age.

The professional staff delivers loving guidance to help the girls advance through the steps of healed trauma, attain grade-level academically, find comfort in healthy relationships, discover the satisfaction of workability, and restore their self-worth.

In July of 2021 Hidden Treasures Foundation was approved to directly provide therapeutic and mental health services to the residents of Tiffany's Place. At this time there isn't a space in the house dedicated to providing these services.

The FOCUS award will provide funding for the purchase and installation of a designated space for these young women to receive counseling and other mental health services. FOCUS is proud to partner with Tiffany's Place to help young women heal and develop into a life where they are empowered and valuable.

FOCUS MAY PROJECTS:

~ The request for lots of books from **The American Academy of Pediatrics / Reach Out and Read program** that you all voted on was fulfilled by our shopper, Doreen Acampora. In underserved neighborhoods, the books will be provided to young children at their wellness appointments. The video showing the impact of these books can be seen on: RORSD.org

~ **Angel Foster Family Network** dedicates themselves to the wellbeing of infants and children in foster care. FOCUS provided the requested equipment ... car seat, expandable ball, climbing gym, water table, etc. Thank you to shopper; Kelly Kindorf.

The following note came from their director:

Our family received the climbing gym and are thrilled! They would like to send a thank you note to be shared with the committee. What would be the easiest way for you to receive that?

Thank you so much!

Suzanne McClain

Director of Development / Angel Foster Family Network

~ Additionally, we received a request for **Emergency Spending** from the doctor of a 4 year old girl being treated for spina bifida. Because she and her brother were in serious need of food and clothing, neighbors were sharing their state provided vouchers. We provided food, shoes, socks, underwear, dress, shorts, sweater, pj's and pants.. Thank you, Leslie Granger and Dr. Joan Le for making us aware of this need.

~ Because FOCUS continues to grow and the number of agencies we communicate with increases, Projects has developed a new request form and it is attached to this newsletter. Please make it available to any of the agencies that you know of that might want to submit their request for our help. We will soon have this available on our website.

~ **As agencies - 26 of them! - submitted their applications totaling \$700,000 for the 40th Anniversary Grant, we became acutely aware of how great the needs are for so many disadvantaged children in San Diego. Rest assured ... FOCUS is making a difference.**

Thank you to you all.



Barbara Donahue & Therese Pallares

It was wonderful to see so many new faces at both the Ruby Gala. If you or your guests are considering becoming members, encourage them to join now.

Current membership is 134.

Active: 69

Corporate: 4

Patron: 61

We are so happy to welcome so many new members this month. We look forward to meeting you all soon. Please reach out and welcome our new members:

Randall Salinas

Barbara Smith

FOCUS members: Your dues are so important in supporting the work of FOCUS. Some long time members have not renewed yet. If you want to be sure you have renewed for 2022, call Barbara (619) 723-3026.

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



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

6/8 - Patricia Fitzgerald

6/21 - Dotty Turner

6/25 - Therese Pallares

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.

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."



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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
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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