



September 2022 Newsletter



Message from the President, Pat Robitaille

A very special thank you to the “Night of Stars” team which is chaired by Therese Pallares & Denise Donato-McConnell. So much work has gone into the planning for this special night of celebration and recruitment. I don’t believe we have ever had 170 people come out for the Annual Membership Meeting. Congrats to the committee members of Doreen Acampora, Lisa Alves, Carla Bacon, Jeri Barsz, Sharyn Blongiewicz, Barbara Donahue, Carolyn Rogerson and Juliane Morris. We are looking forward to a fabulous evening!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



It’s that time of year to put together our FOCUS Board of Directors 2023 slate of officers. We have been very fortunate to have several of our awesome current members offering to return. In addition, we have a few members offering to join the team. We are still looking for a couple more and would love to hear from you if you are interested or would like to learn more. If that is you, please reach out to us at info@focus-sdkids.org.

The Holiday Boutique planning is underway. We are very fortunate to have Sharyn Blongiewicz working to bring in vendors for this lovely event and already has 15 booth reservations! We have several folks who have already offered to help that day and are just in need of a chairperson to be the overall coordinator. Sharyn chaired it last year and is willing to train. But with her Projects duties, she does not have the time to chair this event again. Please consider this as it is a very fun day to be a part of. Contact info@focus-sdkids.org to learn more.





Executive VP, Denise Donato-McConnell

FOMOFE

Many are suffering from this now contagious condition.

Fear of Missing Out On A FOCUS Event. And it's understandable. This has been an exciting year of events to raise funds for the betterment of the lives of San Diego's most vulnerable children. Those of you who attended the event at the iconic IBar (inspiration for bar in the Top Gun movie), the craft cocktail party in the beautiful historic Coronado Village home, the 40th Anniversary Gala on the bay, or got tickets to our sold out Night of the Stars, you know the excitement of being a part of these fun events that allow us to make a difference for children in need.

So how can you participate in making a difference (and having a great time) over the next few months?

October 28th, volunteer for a shift at the Halloween Happenings in Spreckels Park. My husband and I helped out last year and it was a delightful afternoon of spreading the word about FOCUS as we offered games and treats to the little ghosts, goblins, and other scary and adorable costumed children. Stay tuned for information on when we will be looking for volunteers to stuff bags of treats to bring to the park.

November 19th, is our much anticipated annual FOCUS Holiday Boutique at CCYC. Volunteers have a chance to scope out the wonderful potential holiday gifts you might like to purchase before the crowds of excited shoppers arrive.

December 10th, the Holiday Boat Parade at CCYC is a chance for yacht club members and FOCUS members to enjoy a magical night watching the boats adorned in holiday lights parade by.

December 22nd, the FOCUS Holiday Party for members only. Another occasion to have fun and enjoy the company of other FOCUS members who share your passion for our mission. As members you always have access to our upcoming events prior to them being released to the general public. So stay tuned to our website, the newsletter and email blasts. After all, no one wants to suffer from **FOMOFE**.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2022

10 AM - 3 PM

CORONADO CAYS YACHT CLUB

Champagne, Music, Elegant Pastries,
Coffee While You Shop

DOZENS OF FABULOUS ITEMS ...

LADIES FASHION & ACCESSORIES, HOME & GARDEN DECOR, CHRISTMAS AND
THANKSGIVING DECORATIONS, ART, JEWELRY, SERVING PIECES, LUGGAGE &
TOTES, PET ACCESSORIES, PILLOWS, KITCHENWARE AND MUCH, MUCH MORE.

LUNCH MENU WILL BE OFFERED.

Potential Vendors...

Register:
focus22boutique.givesmart.com

Questions:
sharynb@focus-sdkids.org



FOCUS

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN UNITED SOCIETY

FOCUS is a 501(c)(3). All proceeds benefit San Diego children in need!!



Financial Report from Treasurers, Sharon Shelton & Kathy

Tyner

PROFIT & LOSS - January 1 thru August 30, 2022

Income		
	Amazon Smiles	\$84.35
	Membership Dues	\$9,025.00
	Donations	\$12,458.13
	Grants	\$15,454.00
	Meetings	\$17,336.17
	Boutique	\$320.00
	Gala	\$128,870.00
	Rummage Sale	\$4,522.04
	Interest Income	\$5.67
	TOTAL INCOME	\$188,075.36
Expenses		
	Projects & Grants	\$67,702.21
	Bank Charges & Fees	\$5,126.21
	Office Supplies	\$750.89
	Licensing/Software	\$2,862.72
	Legal & Prof. Services	\$500.00
	Insurance	\$768.72
	Taxes & Licenses	\$75.00
	Advertising & Marketing	\$3,218.50
	Event/Meeting Expenses	\$50,862.59
	Reconciliation/Adjustment	\$310.79
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$132,177.63
NET INCOME		\$55,897.73

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS		
Bank Accounts		
	Chase Checking	\$133,811.07
	Chase Savings	\$50,022.06
TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 183,756.18



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

Projects August 2022



August was an especially busy month for Focus Projects. The following projects were approved and have either been completed or are in progress! If you have questions or want more detail, please contact Carin or me.

FOCUS provided invaluable help to children and teens this past month by providing food, shoes, backpacks, school supplies, positive experiences through summer surf camps and indoor playground for children living in an urban shelter.

The agencies we supported last month:

- Safe Harbor Coronado ~ Self-help books for Coronado children in the wake of Covid
- Boys to Men Mentoring Network ~ Mentoring and consistent male role modeling activities for young men at risk, surf boards for summer programs
- Chula Vista Community Collaborative ~ Emergency groceries
- San Diego Rescue Mission ~ Indoor playground equipment
- San Diego Police Department / Eastlake Division ~ backpacks & school supplies in underserved communities

Thank you shoppers!!!



Officer Gonzalze, creating help and goodwill in San Diego Eastlake Community ...*With the help of backpacks supplied by FOCUS*



FOCUS delivered emergency groceries to the Chula Vista Community Collaborative

Toiletries 🙇

Now that we have finally resumed traveling, please continue to collect and save all toiletries! They are greatly appreciated by some of the agencies we serve. Thank you Linda Pippenger! (please drop your donations off at 96 Antigua Court)



Membership VP's Barbara Donahue & Therese Pallares

**FOCUS is
excited to host
170 of you at
our
Night of Stars!**



We look forward to seeing you at the annual membership drive event, Night of Stars on September 17th . As you may know, we have sold out at 170 guests! This is incredible and wonderful as we hope to increase our membership to expand our reach and support more of the growing needs of children in San Diego County. Payment of our member dues is one of our larger fundraising activities so we hope you will join or continue to renew even if you cannot be an active member. 100% of the member dues fund the needs of children through the agencies that we support.

Please note, Night of Stars is fully funded only by ticket sales and a small use of the grant from the City of Coronado. The grant was given to FOCUS this year to help us raise awareness to the challenges of children in need and to grow our membership. Not one dollar comes from the FOCUS general funds.

We are also very fortunate to have generous underwriters for this event which have included:

- Jeff & Mary Shapiro: Wines from Quigley Fine Wines
- Diane Cahez, owner of Opera Patisserie : Desserts
- Robbins' Rum Cakes: Desserts
- Carla Bacon : STARS

This month, we are pleased to welcome back returning member **Alexandra Polles**. Alexandra was a major contributor on our Gala committee this year, helping us hire and manage our caterer and the delicious food for the event.

Current Membership

Corporate Sponsors	4
Patron Members	59
Active Members	74

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

The Coronadotimes.com published an update article highlighting the partner agency requested projects FOCUS volunteers fulfilled this summer. The article announced the September 17th Night of Stars event was an almost immediate sellout. Suggested members and supporters keep up with FOCUS on the new Facebook page and the website and save the date for The Holiday Bazaar. Members, please look for the prominent article in "The Crown City Magazine" coming out September 1st.



Getting to Know FOCUS

Forty years ago, several residents of Coronado saw the need for a charitable organization dedicated to the needs of children. They created Friends of Children United Society (FOCUS). For 40 years, hundreds of partner agencies and hundreds of thousands of children have benefited from the generosity of FOCUS supporters and members. Former president and long time member Marianne Polles has faithfully supported FOCUS for most of those 40 years. FOCUS could not have helped so many children without members like Ms. Polles. Now FOCUS needs you.

Daily we all receive requests for donations from various organizations, some at our mailing address, some by phone. Many are legitimate, others are not. Vetting is difficult. How do you know how much of your donation goes to the needy and how much to pay office rent, salaries, travel, and other expenses? FOCUS has vetted each of their partner agencies. When you donate to FOCUS you know how your donation is spent. Every penny goes to children in need. You can learn more about FOCUS and how you can help the mission at www.focus-sdkids.org.



Photo courtesy of FOCUS

The FOCUS partner agencies represent a wide span of children in need. Providing food to children during summer months when their schools are closed is one example. This past summer FOCUS fulfilled requests from Camp Able, motorized screens for Youth Assistance Coalition, 98 pairs of shoes from size Toddler 2 to Teen 10 for Christie's Place, 800 stuffed school backpacks for nine different children's charities, playground equipment for SD Rescue Mission, 400 curriculum books for Coronado Safe Harbor. The successful Annual June Rummage Sale, and July 4th Parade participation are just a few more fun events FOCUS members enjoyed.



Photo courtesy of FOCUS

Looking forward, FOCUS will be back at North Island Naval Base, [Saturday, September 17, 2022 for a Night of Stars](#) celebrating our members, donors and enjoying new friends. The Night of Stars event sold out almost as soon as announced.

Our annual festive Holiday Boutique at the Coronado Cays Yacht Club will take place on Saturday, November 19, 2022. Come enjoy music, champagne, coffee and a delicious selection of sweets and savory treats as you get a jump on Holiday shopping. A joyful, fun way to begin the winter season of celebration!

Keep up w FOCUS events, join and support at our web site: www.focus-sdkids.org and on Facebook at F.O.C.U.S.

President, Pat Robitaille

Projects VP, Sharyn Blongiewicz

Projects VP, Carin Cross



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

Sept 1 - Bob Plumbley

Sept 7 - Genie Brown

Sept 7 - Karen Butler

Sept 18 - Javier Blanco

Sept 23 - Vicki Bernitt

Sept 23 - Patrick McConnell-23

Sept 24 - Pam Plumbley

Sept 25 - Fran Becker

Sept 29 - Jeff Shapiro

Sept 30 - Joann Palmer

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



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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