

# December 2022 Newsletter

## Message from the President, Pat Robitaille

November was a great month for FOCUS. Early in the month, our wonderful VP of Projects, Carin Cross, opened her home to welcome our new members. It was wonderful to get to know so many of you and to learn about your passion for FOCUS and desire to help. We are so pleased to have you join us.



## Welcome New Members



Another great event in November was the annual Holiday Boutique. We were fortunate to have 30 of our members work as volunteers to help put on this successful and fun event. It was so much fun to enjoy an event that raised over \$10,000 for FOCUS.

Our hard working crew included not only our very own Sharyn Blongiewicz who brought in all the vendors, but also past president Roger Clapp and Sharyn's granddaughter Emily Jones. This was Emily's 2nd year of bringing her beautiful smile and hustle to our event.



### Mark your Calendar!

December 10th - Creating Magic Holiday Party and Boat Parade at CCYC

January 26th - Annual Meeting/2023 Kickoff at CCYC



**Executive VP, Denise Donato-McConnell**

It has been an amazing holiday season for FOCUS.

The FOCUS Boutique was a wonderful success. The attendees found treasures among the more than 40 vendors while enjoying complimentary baked goods and champagne. One of the most rewarding parts of the day was watching the attendees select ornaments with the wishlist from a special needs child of a family of Navy enlisted members. Only a few hours into the Boutique every ornament had been selected! A special thanks to all members and guests who did the shopping and wrapping of the gifts that brought so much joy to the children at the ASYMCA party.



A year of amazing events, with record donations and new members, will culminate in the holiday party at the Coronado Cays Yacht Club this Saturday. With a singing Santa, boat parade, plated dinner, and live music, we will celebrate some of the holiday projects FOCUS completed



to help children in need Create Magic.



As we look forward to 2023, FOCUS is excited to expand our reach to help even more children in need. You will want to attend our Annual Meeting at CCYC so you don't miss out on our exciting plans for 2023!

A special sneak preview is new projects for members such as planning and making dinners for homeless children, a repeat of favorite events from 2022 such as the iconic Ibar and a memorable and magical event for our Gala on the flight deck on the Midway! To find out more about what is being planned and how you can get involved please save the date of January 26th.



# Financial Report from Treasurers, Sharon Shelton & Kathy

Tyner

## PROFIT & LOSS - January 1 thru December 5, 2022

<b>Income</b>		
	Amazon Smiles	\$97.97
	Membership Dues	\$19,225.00
	Donations	\$36,036.76
	Grants	\$15,454.00
	Meetings	\$21,466.26
	Boutique	\$10,760.05
	Boat Parade	\$6,706.20
	Gala	\$128,870.00
	Rummage Sale	\$4,522.04
	Interest Income	\$10.50
	Miscellaneous Income	\$1,577.51
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$244,724.29</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	Projects & Grants	\$111,084.95
	Bank Charges & Fees	\$6,226.56
	Office Supplies	\$810.85
	Licensing/Software	\$2,950.40
	Legal & Prof. Services	\$500.00
	Insurance, Taxes, Licenses	\$1,236.93
	Advertising & Marketing	\$5,618.24
	Event/Meeting Expenses	\$65,384.63
	Reconciliation/Adjustment	\$432.00
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$194,246.56</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		<b>\$50,477.79</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Bank Accounts</b>		
	Chase Checking	\$73,183.59



	Chase Savings	\$100,026.89
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>\$ 173,210.48</b>



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

Another busy and exciting month for FOCUS. We purchased books for Children's Legal Services, Reach Out And Read San Diego and Voices Alive, bikes for the Single Marines Program, formula, diapers, blankets and jackets for the SD Police Department, badly needed underwear for Youth Assistance Coalition and an Amplify Grade 8 Science Kit for Nativity Prep.

We are grateful and excited that more new members signed up to shop than ever before. A HUGE thank you to all the shoppers. FOCUS could not meet all these requests without you. In the month of November alone we fulfilled requests from 7 agencies totalling over \$17,500.

The first dinner at YAC was a great success. Jeri Barsz organized the dinner and we handed out 60 boxes from Kentucky Fried Chicken, Mac n Cheese, cookies and soft drinks. . Thank you Jeri and team; Sharyn Blongiewicz, Carin Cross, Kathy Tyner and Ed Robitaille. We will be providing dinner at YAC the 1st Tuesday of each month.

**A volunteer schedule will go out in the new year for anyone interested in providing and serving a dinner.**



**YAC Held a donor appreciation Open House and the FOCUS donated pergola for the homeless teen drop-in center was a huge hit!**

\*\*\*\*\*

Carin Cross had a chance this month to visit the GOT YOUR BACK warehouse in Oceanside. FOCUS supports this group in their ongoing program to provide food filled backpacks each Friday to over 300 school kids. The packs are filled with enough food to feed the kids over the weekend. FOCUS has just fulfilled a \$10,000 annual grant to the agency with the purchase of necessary, non-perishable foods, including 1800 Horizon milk boxes!



**Got Your Back warehouse -**  
**Food filled backpacks go home with children for weekend food.**

~~~~~

**Save your travel/toiletries!**  
They can be dropped off at Linda Pippenger's, 96 Antigua Court, Coronado Cays.  
There are so many kids couch surfing, sleeping in shelters, tents and cars ...  
all of whom truly appreciate the toiletries.  
Thank you, Linda!

~~~~~



# NOVEMBER PROJECTS

FOCUS does not provide money but rather shops for and delivers the requested items.

**1. United Through Ready**

- \$3,800 for 200 Lil' Marine and 200 Lil' Navy Sailor Books for service members a to video record the book for their children to view during deployments and duty related separations

**2. San Diego Civic Youth Ballet**

- \$3,000 ballet costumes to enable underprivileged children to participate

**3. US Marine Corp**

- \$5,000 for 50 bikes and helmets to support Build A Bike program that brings together a community of Marines who give their time to do something good for those kids on base that need that extra love

**4. American Academy of Pediatrics**

- \$2,500 for 1,000 books for their Reach Out and Read program that gives young children a foundation for success by incorporating books into pediatric care and encouraging families to read aloud together.

**5. San Diego Police Department/East County Outreach**

- \$2,000 to help out families in need with diapers, formula, blankets, jackets for kids, socks, undergarments, toiletries and food vouchers.

**6. Nativity Prep Academy**

- \$4,000 for STEM teaching program to support low-income students

**7. Words Alive**

- \$2,000 for books to support their Read Aloud Program

**8. Children's Legal Services**

- \$1,000 for 20 each of 5 different books

**9. Youth Assistance Coalition**

- \$1,000 for young men's underwear



## Membership VP's Barbara Donahue & Therese Pallares

Dear Membership,

A group of our members visited the Youth Agency Coalition (YAC) and fed approximately 60 homeless children in November. FOCUS is committed to asking our membership to volunteer each month to feed these children at YAC. Sharyn Blongieiwicz, VP for Projects organized this amazing outreach program so that our membership can serve this wonderful organization. If you are wanting to volunteer for this specific outreach, please contact Sharyn.

Since the Eagles published the article about FOCUS providing a dinner to YAC, two prospective members contacted FOCUS wanting to participate and/or join FOCUS!

Please be sure to share any pictures if you participated in FOCUS events as we want to document and share with our members your involvement.

We are excited to celebrate with you this Saturday, December 10 th the annual FOCUS/CCYC Christmas Boat Parade event. This is our Christmas party and a great way to meet fellow FOCUS and CCYC members and visit the Coronado Cays Yacht Club. Santa will be crooning and later in the evening Brian, Brian and Michael will be crooning familiar toons too! It will be a festive event and please wear your outrageous Christmas outfits or come as you are!!

Please be sure to mark your calendars for our first membership meeting on January 26, 2023. It will be held at the Coronado Cays Yacht Club! We have lots to share for the coming year!

Current Membership is:

Corporate Sponsor	6
Patron Members	79
Active Members	100
TOTAL FOCUS Members	185

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Sadly, recently we have lost two longtime FOCUS members.  
Our love and support goes out to the families of Betty Jones and Len Hunt.





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

<b>Dec. 1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Carmel Fleck</b>
		<b>Randall Salinas</b>
<b>Dec. 3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Lisa Alves</b>
<b>Dec. 6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Barbara Donahue</b>
<b>Dec. 7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Gerry Gelfand</b>
		<b>Brian Hull</b>
<b>Dec. 9</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Diane Albano</b>
<b>Dec. 12</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Ingrid Alwerud-Emmermann</b>
<b>Dec. 15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Mike Durgin</b>
<b>Dec. 21</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Carla O'Connell</b>
<b>Dec. 27</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Pat McDonough</b>

Many of you have not provided us with your birthday so we are unable to acknowledge you.  
Please send your birthday to [membership@focus-sdkids.org](mailto:membership@focus-sdkids.org) or provide it when you renew your  
membership.

# 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**

REALTOR®, GRI

Ph: 619-341-4008

DRE No. 01923092

E: therese92118@gmail.com



**COLDWELL BANKER WEST**

Contact me to discuss how I can help you!

Visit: [www.theresepallares.com](http://www.theresepallares.com) or call: 619-341-4008



**Designing Marketing since 2017  
for 330+ delighted clients**



[bit.ly/morriscrownmarketing](http://bit.ly/morriscrownmarketing)



- SOCIAL MEDIA ASSETS
- CAMPAIGN MANAGEMENT
- LEAD GENERATION
- WEBSITE/SEO CONSULT
- CRM MANAGEMENT PLANS
- BRAND MANAGEMENT
- ADVERTISING TARGETING
- SWAG, VENDOR, EVENTS
- PRINT AND DIGITAL

**New to Coronado,  
I'm looking for  
new local clients.  
How can I help  
you or someone  
you know?**



619.454.0036

[aileenoya@gmail.com](mailto:aileenoya@gmail.com)

DRE#01105678

[AileenOyaRealtor.com](http://AileenOyaRealtor.com)



**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.



# Corporate Sponsors

We thank you!



SHARON LYNN SHERMAN

Attorney at Law  
A Professional Corporation

Practice limited to Wills and Trusts  
Estate Planning; Probate; and  
Elder Law

Call for an appointment  
619-435-2282

**ZAP**

Engineering &  
Construction Services, Inc.

(720) 529-4430

[CONTACT US](#)

Our focus on **client relationships** and  
**project execution** is what sets us apart.

As a full-service engineering firm in Lakewood, Colorado – we provide a cost-effective, yet flexible approach in responding to our client's needs. Our project management promotes a "partners in business" method to project execution. We strive to look after our client's best interests by watching costs and practicing ethical and environmentally sound engineering and design practices.

# 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)





# 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.



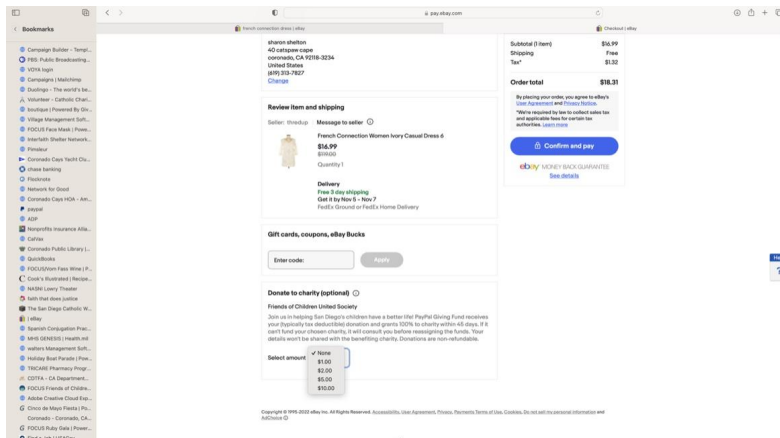
PO Box 180023  
Coronado, Ca 92178  
[www.focus-sdkids.org](http://www.focus-sdkids.org)

# DO YOU SHOP OR SELL ON EBAY?

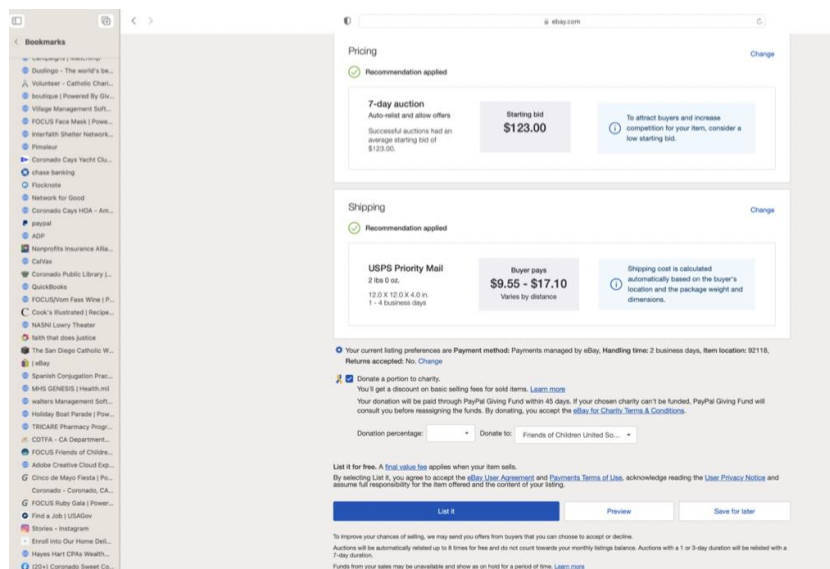
IF SO, YOU CAN NOW DONATE A  
PORTION OF YOUR SALES OR A DOLLAR AMOUNT TO FOCUS WHEN  
YOU BUY!

FOCUS WILL RECEIVE 100% OF YOUR DONATION  
WITHIN 45 DAYS!

If you are a buyer, just Add Friends of Children United Society (FOCUS)  
as your Favorite charity on @eBay. You can directly donate to our  
cause when purchasing up to \$10.00. Every little bit counts!



If you are a seller, at the very bottom of your item listing you will see,  
donate a portion to charity. Just decide what portion 10-100% that  
you would like to donate to FOCUS.



Another simple and easy way to donate throughout the year!