

2022 Newsletter



Message from the President, Pat Robitaille

Thanks so very much to the many FOCUS volunteers who helped create 500 bags of candy and helped host the FOCUS Booth at Coronado's Halloween Happenings! Great fun was had by all as we saw nearly 800 kids come through our booth. Great showing! The City of Coronado has been very appreciative of our contribution to their event.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



We are working hard to finalize the 2023 FOCUS Slate of Officers for your vote. This year, we achieved a record number of new members and income. This puts us at a pivotal point for continued growth which translates directly to doing more for San Diego's kids in need. We have had sessions to determine how best to organize and plan for the upcoming year. We see a need to restructure the board of directors somewhat and, thus, adjust our bi-laws. We need the rest of this month to get this finalized. Please look for it early in December for your review and approval. Contact me if you have any questions.



Mark your Calendar!

November 17th - New Member Happy Hour

November 19th - Holiday Boutique at CCYC

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



With the holidays coming soon, please remember to use Amazon Smile when ordering online and set FOCUS as your preferred charity. Such an easy way for FOCUS to earn extra dollars for our agencies. For detailed instructions on how to do this, please refer to the last page of this newsletter.



Executive VP, Denise Donato-McConnell

“This story is being shared in the Coronado Eagle and Times, but we wanted to make sure that you had an opportunity to share in the FOCUS story of caring for children in need.”

The FOCUS Giving Tree is an Opportunity for You to Help Military

Families With Special Needs Children



The party will be filled with wonder as the families of junior enlisted with special needs children gather together. Santa will be there and under the tree are beautifully wrapped presents. Then, Santa calls out a name as he holds out a gift. Imagine the excitement and wonder that is felt by that child! They are special and Santa knows their name! The child and their family rush up to visit the jolly old man as the child magically receives just the gift that they wanted!

Again this year with the help of the FOCUS Giving Tree, the ASYMCA (Armed Services YMCA) will create this Magical Holiday Party. It is a special opportunity for families who face common challenges of raising a child with special needs to bond and celebrate together. The ASYMCA receives a list from the Navy Hospital Balboa of children of junior enlisted who face emotional, physical or other special needs challenges. They contact the families to find out what the gift wish list is for each of the children in the family. Each child is given a number so they can only be identified by the organizers of the party, until Santa delivers their gifts.

There is no specific budget for this program but somehow each year the ASYMCA is able to make it work. Besides the holiday party fun of pictures, Rad Hatter appearance to make hats, and a cookie station, each child is recognized by Santa with a gift. However, the purchase of over a 100 children's gifts needs the help of caring organizations and individuals.

FOCUS each year has created a Giving Tree to give the Coronado community an opportunity to be a part of serving the families that serve our county. You can come to the FOCUS Holiday Boutique on November 19th at the Coronado Cays Yacht Club to visit the tree and participate. By selecting an ornament, you have all the information you need (child's gender, age and wish list of 3 items) to shop for that perfect gift to bring joy to these special families.

Chairing the project this year is Sharon Shelton, the FOCUS treasurer. As a retired Navy Captain, she is aware of the special needs of these families who might not otherwise be able to provide that gift their child so desperately wants. With volunteer FOCUS members as her elves, Shelton will collect the gifts and deliver them to ASYMCA a week later so they can be prepared for the Magical Holiday Party. With this quick timeline, FOCUS hopes that as many people as possible select an ornament from this year's Giving Tree.

While you are at the FOCUS Holiday Boutique, take time to shop the wonderful offerings of the 40 plus vendors. Enjoy champagne provided by CCYC, music, elegant pastries and coffee, or take advantage of the lunch menu offered that day by CCYC. It is a special opportunity to find unique holiday treasures and know your attendance is supporting FOCUS in its efforts to help abused, homeless, exploited, disabled, disadvantaged, military and foster children.

*The Giving Tree can be found at the **FOCUS Holiday Boutique on November 19th** at the Coronado Cays Yacht club from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Admission is \$10 and goes towards the FOCUS mission of raising money for the betterment of local children in need.*



Financial Report from Treasurers, Sharon Shelton & Kathy

Tyner

PROFIT & LOSS - January 1 thru December 5, 2022

Income		
	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
	TOTAL INCOME	\$244,724.29
Expenses		
	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
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$194,246.56
NET INCOME		\$50,477.79

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS		
Bank Accounts		
	Chase Checking	\$73,183.59

	Chase Savings	\$100,026.89
TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 173,210.48



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.

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**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!

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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 Members!

Thank you so much for your interest in becoming a member and thank you members for your renewals as it is wonderful to begin the New Year with half of our membership already current! In October, we have 3 more members who renewed and 5 new members! We are so excited to begin the New Year with a significant increase in membership from our Membership Drive event held on September 17th !

We look forward to being all together soon on November 19th for the Holiday Boutique event at the Coronado Cays Yacht Club. If you haven't signed up to volunteer, would you please consider donating a couple of hours as this is how we run this event smoothly and efficiently. We have our Christmas Giving Tree in which you or a guest can select a Christmas ornament to purchase Christmas presents for a child who normally does not receive a Christmas gift.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Saturday, November 19, 2022
9 AM - 2 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, Books, Cards, Hostess Gifts and
So Much More!
Lunch menu will be offered.

\$10 Entry Fee
Includes
Champagne Cocktail, Coffee,
Elegant Pastries
& Treats While You Shop

FOCUS
Providing benefit and
support to disadvantaged
San Diego Children
for more than 40 years
501(c)(3)



FOCUS

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN UNITED SOCIETY

Celebrate the Season with FOCUS and CCYC
Saturday, December 10th

The magic of the season is created as we join together to enjoy an evening of dinner, live music and camaraderie. The event is held at the beautiful Coronado Cays Yacht Club where you will be welcomed by Santa playing the guitar and singing holiday songs. Join friends for cocktails overlooking the San Diego Bay as boats decorated and lit in their holiday best parade by. A plated dinner then awaits you with your choice of Filet Mignon, Pan Seared Sea Bass or Eggplant Parmesan with complementary table wine. Holiday music ,mixed with classical favorites, by MB2 (Michael, Brian & Brian) will continue during dinner and afterwards as you are invited to savor dessert and the company of other guests. Adding to the special nature of the evening will be a brief presentation on the work that FOCUS has done to assist children's aid organizations during this holiday time and a TOYS for TOTS box provided by CCYC. Join us for a meaningful and memorable night of Creating Magic.

On Thursday, January 26th, we will have our first membership meeting at the Coronado Cays Yacht Club. Please be sure to mark your calendars and come to meet your new board of directors and fellow members!

Hope you enjoyed volunteering in preparing the candy and distributing it at Spreckels Park. Thank you to those who came, everyone had a great time!

Cannot wait to see you at the Christmas Boutique!

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!

Nov. 2 - Dave Fleck

Nov. 8 - Juliane Morris

Nov. 16 - Carol Dobi

Nov. 18 - Herlinda Sandoval-Ryan

Nov. 21 - Sharron Rowley

Nov. 23 - Heather Pettit

Nov. 26 - Ed Robitaille

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 or provide it when you renew your
membership.



Publicity VPs Carolyn Rogerson & Juliane Morris

We're thrilled – and hope you are as well – to see our sponsored large color banners displayed on Orange Avenue on 6th and 7th promoting our upcoming FOCUS Holiday Boutique!

You can enjoy and share our related publicity Holiday Boutique video with this link:
<https://bit.ly/FOCUSholidayboutique> or this QR code:

Help Us Publicize the FOCUS Holiday Boat Show

Just around the corner for our December 8 FOCUS Holiday Boat Show, we have some information and images for you to use and share to help spread the word about our awesome FOCUS events that work to raise funds and bring awareness and action for our efforts. Images are pasted below, however you can use and share this link to the same two-page flyer:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1haYdimQfaH-0UxX_oxUTPdk9BojcEfbi/view?usp=share_link

Eager to learn and share more about FOCUS as you are a FOCUS Ambassador through your membership? Our website is chock full of helpful resources, and archived newsletters.

Here are some great talking points and references to share with those you think may have an interest in joining FOCUS or partnering with us through a sponsorship or donation:
<https://focus-sdkids.org/causes/>

As we share the FOCUS story, continued journey and visionary future, understanding how and with whom we help San Diego's most vulnerable children is a great way to prime your own passion, and be ready to communicate your interest and purpose to others, drawing more people and organizations to our good work.
<https://focus-sdkids.org/news/>

Have you liked and shared our FOCUS Facebook page? Visit
<https://www.facebook.com/Focus92118> or just search on Facebook for "Focus92118".

Please also take a moment to leave us your personal FOCUS review here:
<https://www.facebook.com/Focus92118/reviews>

When appropriate, consider using our new general FOCUS QR code in your signature line to direct people to our FOCUS website:

In case you missed it in the October newsletter our September FOCUS Night of Stars photos are here: <https://bit.ly/NOSimages>

Your FOCUS publicity team will continue to foster helpful relationships with partners in the community with whom we can mutually help draw positive attention to our intentions.

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



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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.

Corporate Sponsors

We thank you!



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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



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.



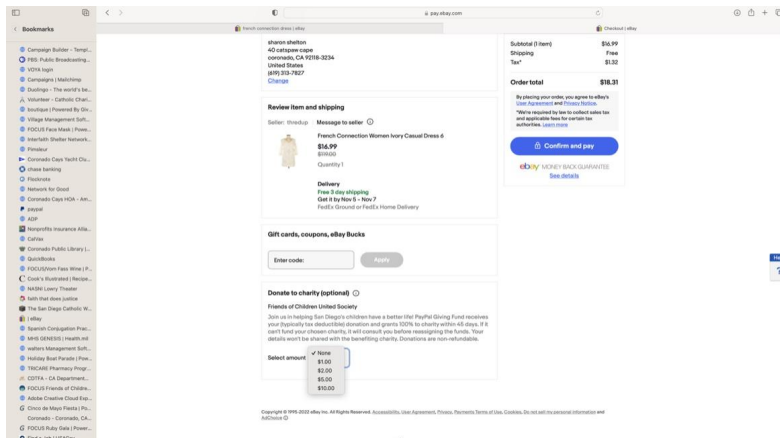
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DO YOU SHOP OR SELL ON EBAY?

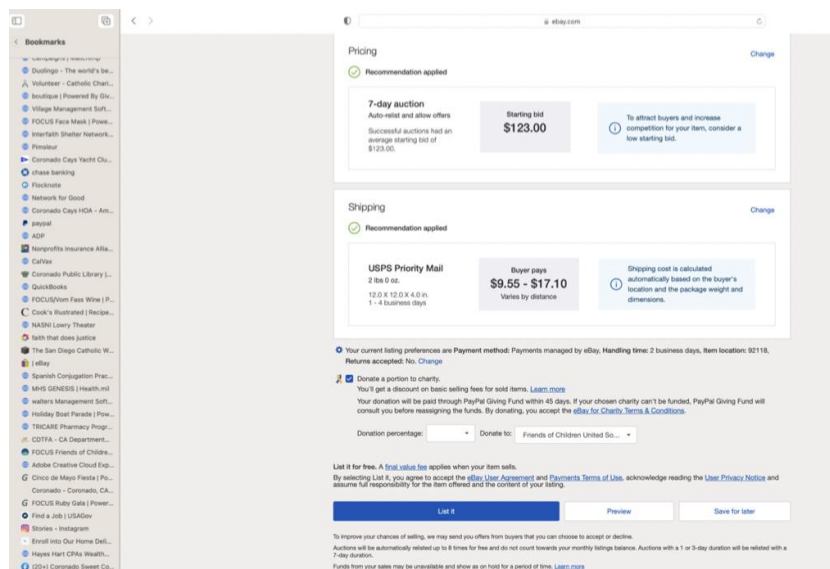
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PORTION OF YOUR SALES OR A DOLLAR AMOUNT TO FOCUS WHEN
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FOCUS WILL RECEIVE 100% OF YOUR DONATION
WITHIN 45 DAYS!

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!