



# FOCUS

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN UNITED SOCIETY

Founded in 1982 | 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charity | P.O. Box 180023, Coronado, CA 92178  
email: info@focus-sdkids.org | www.focus-sdkids.org | Facebook: @Focus92118

## OUR MISSION

We raise funds for charitable purposes for the comfort and betterment of battered, abused, homeless, disabled, disadvantaged, military and foster children within San Diego County.



## We Raise Money

From fundraisers, yearly membership dues, special events and contributions from corporations, members and concerned individuals.



## We Help

By giving needed items to San Diego County disadvantaged, disabled and military children either directly or through accredited organizations that support them.



## What's the Word?

FROM PRESIDENT, SHARYN BLONGIEWICZ

Dear FOCUS Members and Friends of FOCUS

Isn't FOCUS just something special?? The Gala was an amazing event. Thanks to the hardworking, creative and dedicated committee, from "Frank" at check-in to the elegant decor, catering and heartfelt videos, every detail was perfect. It was a magical evening that raised a lot of money to support our San Diego children in need. Thank you all, thank you Chairperson Pat Robitaille and, of course, thank you to all that attended!

Offering a TOTALLY different vibe, the rummage sale will be held September 7th. Start gathering your gently used items to donate. Plan to help if you possibly can...we have a lot of fun.

As I have said many times, we will never know how many children's lives we have changed. Thank you all!!!



The FOCUS entry in the July 4. Coronado parade was a big success. We took second place in our division. 😊 Thank you to all who worked on it, thank you, Dancers Juliane and Kevin and thank you Lepore's for so generously hosting us again!



# FOCUS AUGUST MEETING

**CORONADO CAYS  
YACHT CLUB  
AUGUST 15TH**

- 4:00PM – 5:00PM HOSTED COCKTAIL HOUR FOR FOCUS SINGLES  
4:00PM – 5:00PM HOSTED COCKTAIL HOUR FOR FOCUS NEW MEMBERS  
5:00PM – 6:00PM CASH BAR COCKTAIL HOUR FOR ALL MEMBERS  
AND GUESTS  
6:00PM – 7:00PM STIR FRY BUFFET DINNER WITH ASIAN SALA3  
7:00PM FOCUS UPDATE  
GUEST SPEAKERS, SUE & BILL MCLEOD FROM  
"GOT YOUR BACK".

GOT YOUR BACK SAN DIEGO IS A WEEKEND FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING SAN DIEGO COUNTY SCHOOLS, WHOSE MAIN SOURCE OF NUTRITION IS CAFETERIA FOOD MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY BUT, APART FROM SCHOOL, LACK A RELIABLE FOOD SOURCE ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. AS A RESULT, MANY OF THESE CHILDREN MUST ENDURE ENTIRE WEEKENDS WITH LITTLE TO NOTHING TO EAT.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED NO LATER THAN  
AUGUST 6TH.**

**\$40 PER PERSON  
INCLUDES DINNER**

**RESERVE NOW AT**

**[FOCUSAUG24.GIVESMART.COM](http://FOCUSAUG24.GIVESMART.COM)**





## **FOCUS Rummage Sale**

Saturday  
September 7  
8AM - Noon

## **DONATIONS Gratefully Accepted**

Please bring all gently  
used items to Coronado  
Cays Homeowners  
Association  
505 Grand Caribe  
Causeway  
Coronado 92118

**September 5 & 6**  
10AM - 4PM

Sorry...No clothes, large  
furniture or old electronics  
can be accepted.

We reserve the right to  
decline unusable items.

~~~~~  
**Saturday, September 7**  
**COME SHOP for**  
**Great Bargains!!**  
**8AM - Noon**  
~~~~~

**ALL Proceeds support FOCUS Endowment Program**

*Focus is an all volunteer 501(c)(3) charitable Organization*  
*Receipts available upon request*

**Friends of Children United Society**  
*Bringing hope and help to Diego County's  
Most Vulnerable Children*

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



# Oh what a NIGHT!

Picture perfect evening on the USS Midway to celebrate our 2024 "Light Up the Night" gala. Over 300 people joined us for another incredibly fun and successful fundraising evening for FOCUS. A very special thank you to all of you that came and all of the many others that supported the event behind the scenes. We matched our fundraising for the evening with our 2023 gala, which had been our most ever successful. We are still awaiting the final accounting, but our Silent/Live Auctions brought in over \$85,000 and donations nearly \$100,000. Thank you, thank you.

This was also one of the least stressful galas we have ever put on due to the amazing gala chairpersons who showed such leadership and professionalism. These include the amazing teams of: Auction - Sharon Shelton & Arie Van Vugt, Bar & Wine Service - Mary Shapiro, Budget Management - Carol Dobi, Catering - Diane Anderson, Decorations - Carla Bacon & Jeri Barsz, Entertainment & Social Media - Juliane Morris, Marketing - Trisha Ross, Program - Denise Donato-McConnell, Registration/Check-in/Out - Kim Cimini, Ticket Sales - Pat Robitaille, VIP Experience - Dianne Folsom.

We are beginning our planning for next year as venues need to be booked a good year in advance. We are soliciting feedback from everyone who attended the event. If you have not yet filled out the survey, please take a couple of minutes to do so. We want to consistently improve our guest experience so your feedback is invaluable to us.

## FOCUS Gala Survey



# Projects & grants

Thank you!



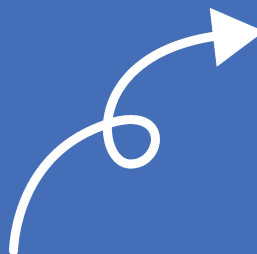
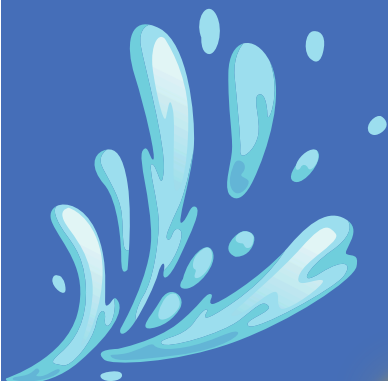
Christie's Place | Thank you to Friends of Children United Society (F.O.C.U.S) for your generous donation of Vans shoes for each of our children signed up for



FOCUS in record breaking time - one day, organized and "stuffed" 800 school back packs for elementary, middle and high school students in San Diego area. Many thanks to the almost 20 volunteers who came and joyfully worked SO hard to make this happen. It was a true team effort and everyone had a great time making this happen. The 10 agencies who collected the back packs were "over the moon" excited to receive them! They all mentioned how the number of needy families is increasing due to increased costs of food, etc... and how much they are all challenged to keep up with the demand.



Below is happy picture of Connie Villarreal, Director of Christian Community Service Agency and her niece Carolina picking up their over 200 backpacks!



Cooler for  
CAMP ABLE





# SAVE THE DATE FOCUS *Singles Club*

**AUGUST 23**

**LETS DANCE .....AGAIN**

Join us for music, dancing and fellowship at  
Coronado Shores Beach Club  
August 23rd from 7:00 to 9:00

Snacks will be provided and there is a cash bar.

To reserve a space contact Dianne at  
[Dianfolsom@aol.com](mailto:Dianfolsom@aol.com) or text to 925-984-3550



Hope to see many of you there!



## *Upcoming Events*

### **FOCUS August Meeting**

**Thursday, August 15th**

**Coronado Cays Yacht Club**

4pm-8pm

\$40/person

Includes dinner

Reservations by August 6th

**[FOCUSAUG24.GIVSMART.COM](http://FOCUSAUG24.GIVSMART.COM)**

### **FOCUS Singles Club**

**August 23**

**Shores Beach Club**

**7pm-9pm**

rsvp Dianne [dianfolsom@aol.com](mailto:dianfolsom@aol.com)

### **FOCUS Rummage Sale**

**Saturday September 7th**

Please find a corner in your garage or in a spare closet to start saving and setting things aside to donate to the annual FOCUS Rummage Sale.

All saleable items will be appreciated except old electronics, large furniture and clothing.

### **FOCUS Holiday Boutique**

**November 16**

**Coronado Cays Yacht Club**

Inquire to be a vendor

**[boutique24.givesmart.com](http://boutique24.givesmart.com)**

*Gifted*

DISHWASHER  
FOR YAK!!!



## **New members**

Janine Everhart

Tami Dorr

Amy Kramer

KC Muscolino

Rhonda Fleming



**FOCUS ... Bringing hope and help to San Diego County's most vulnerable children since 1982.**



**WE INVITE YOUR SUPPORT**

**WE ARE AN ALL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION COMPRISED OF MEN AND WOMEN FROM MANY WALKS OF LIFE. WE HAVE ONE GOAL: HELPING TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY CHILDREN AND TEENS IN NEED.**

**LEARN MORE**

**Foster Care  
Homelessness  
Schools  
Literacy  
Safe Housing  
Rehabilitation  
Military  
Health & Well-Being**

## **Volunteers Needed**

**Host a FOCUS Monthly Meeting  
(room setup/check-in)**

**Serve Dinner at Youth Assistance  
Coalition**



## **Join /Renew**

Please join FOCUS (or renew your 2023 membership) Good for January 1 to December 31  
Your dues go directly to helping children in need  
This QR code will take you directly to the website renewal page. Please renew as soon as possible. To be included in the 2024 Annual Membership directory we must receive your payment not later than March 15th.  
The join/renew page can also be reached via our website: [www.focus-sdkids.org](http://www.focus-sdkids.org)

Any questions will be answered by submitting to: [membership@focus-sdkids.org](mailto:membership@focus-sdkids.org).



## **Donate**

As always, donations are accepted and greatly appreciated by using this QR code.

Our website has a "Donations" opportunity as well: [www.focus-sdkids.org](http://www.focus-sdkids.org)



# **August**

- 4 Vicki Morris
- 7 Caroly Rogerson
- 9 Sharon Shelton
- 9 Heidi Wilson
- 10 Marcia Hughes
- 11 Arie Van Vugt
- 14 Mary Davidson
- 16 Roger Clapp
- 17 Mary Margaret Omohundro
- 17 Paul Pettit
- 18 Alice Rodriguez
- 21 Ed Morris
- 22 Angela Jensen
- 22 Kathryn Cunningham
- 28 Marianna Polles

