



# 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](mailto:info@focus-sdkids.org) | [www.focus-sdkids.org](http://www.focus-sdkids.org) | Facebook: [@Focus92118](https://www.facebook.com/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

#### Important...

The "Light up the Night" gala is coming up soon and it promises to be even better than last year. I want to take this opportunity to remind all members and friends of FOCUS ... This is our one-and-only big fundraiser this year. If you have charitable giving in your financial plan and if you choose to support FOCUS ... now would be a great time to do it! To continue to improve the lives of disadvantaged children we need your support ... either by attending and enjoying the fabulous gala, by underwriting or by making a donation! You can easily do this by clicking on the following link:

[FocusGala24.givesmart.com](http://FocusGala24.givesmart.com)

Thank you in advance for your continuing support of our unique and very special group of like-minded and caring volunteers. With your help FOCUS members work tirelessly to help improve the lives of so many homeless, foster, disabled, abused, trafficked and otherwise disadvantaged children of San Diego County.

Secure your seats or table NOW!  
[FocusGala24.givesmart.com](http://FocusGala24.givesmart.com)

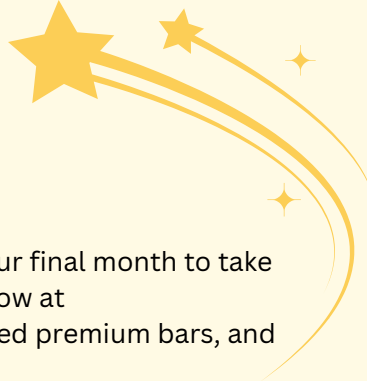
2024 Annual Gala  
**DON'T MISS THIS!**

**Light Up The NIGHT**

SAT. JULY 13 | 6:00PM - 10:00PM | USS MIDWAY  
With entertainment by the amazing Kicks Band!  
Consider the "VIP Experience" which includes an Open Premium Bar.



# Gala Update:



## "Light Up the Night" Annual Gala on USS Midway - What's new! from Pat Robitaille, Gala Chairperson

Do not hesitate to get your tickets or put together a table with family and/or friends. We are in our final month to take reservations for our only major fundraiser of the year. We really need your support. Reserve now at [FocusGala24.givesmart.com](https://FocusGala24.givesmart.com). Again, VIP tickets come with complimentary parking, open dedicated premium bars, and premium seating!

On May 23rd, John (city councilman) and Peggy (FOCUS EVP) hosted a happy hour at their historic Adella home to spread the FOCUS and Gala message. So many of the attendees are now new FOCUS members and are coming to our Gala. Thank you John & Peggy.



Auction items continue to come in and are they exciting! Come join our gala and start planning your trips to Dubai, Powder Mountain, PGA West, Las Vegas, Big Bear, Italy, Xihuatanjejo, Valle de Guadalupe and many more. If staying local, we have concerts, theatre, sporting events, hotels, restaurants, bikes, and so much more. Don't miss out. We would love for you to join in a spectacularly fun evening on the USS Midway!



# FOCUS VOLUNTEERS HELP AT ARMED SERVICES YMCA FOOD DISTRIBUTION (MURPHY CANYON)



Once a month, the wonderful staff and many volunteers of the Armed Services YMCA spend their Thursday morning passing out food to junior enlisted military families. On May 23, 2024 from 0830 to 1200, 10 FOCUS members joined in and thoroughly enjoyed meeting the families and filling their cars full of food donated primarily from the San Diego food bank. It was very much a fun “open market” event with music, and free Starbucks coffee and families who very patiently waited in long lines for their turn for food. It was truly a pleasure for FOCUS to team with ASYMCA and their other community partners, Starbucks, Goodwill Industries, Walmart, SD Food Bank and many others who make these events possible.







## New “FOCUS Singles Club”

Of our current FOCUS membership, over 35% are single. On May 8th, we convened an amazing group of singles to discuss how FOCUS can best leverage our single members and create a comfortable environment for all to join in activities and functions without a partner. This group was incredible in volunteering to help on all FOCUS fundraisers of the Gala, Rummage Sale and Holiday Boutique. They helped at the ASYMCA Food Distribution and will be serving dinners at YAC.

We have officially formed the FOCUS Singles Club and it will be chaired this year by our hostess of the evening Dianne Folsom. Dianne is putting together social gatherings to help our single members get to know each, then come to functions together. They have already filled a “Singles” table for the Gala and we are working on filling another.

**Please get in touch with Pat Robitaille, [probitaille@focus-sdkids.org](mailto:probitaille@focus-sdkids.org) or 925-899-1037, if you have questions or would like to join.**



# Projects & grants

Greetings Fellow FOCUS members. Carla and I have been busy visiting several NEW agencies in our outreach to the community efforts. One is called "Outdoor Adventure" and they are provide wonderful outdoor activities, camping, hiking, etc..to San Diego youth who could not otherwise afford this type of recreation. The other is called, "Pro Kids" and they provide golf lessons at minimal or NO cost San Diego youth. Speaking of outreach - just a reminder that if you know a local nonprofit that supports children and think we could help - please contact us!

Also want to give a huge thanks and shout out to our FOCUS shoppers who volunteered to shop for our 9 agencies throughout the year who received grants. They are doing amazing work to in some cases meet urgent needs of these agencies. In particular, "Got Your Back" has been so appreciative of Carin Cross' help in purchasing lots of food for kids's weekend backpacks.

Want to encourage you to get your tickets to May event "Salute to the Military". The IBAR is such a fun venue, the taco bar is great and we will have reps from ASYMCA, STEP, Women Warriors, United Through Reading, Navy Marine Corp Relief Society, and San Diego Military Outreach Mission in attendance just dying to tell you about what they do and how it helps military families.

Last but certainly not least, what you to save the dates 22 and 23 July to come help us prepare an AMAZING 800 backpacks to give out to some very deserving kids. This is a huge undertaking - but its very manageable - when we have lots of volunteers. We might even buy you pizza - to tempt you.

Best regards,  
Carla Bacon and Sharon Shelton

great  
work!



## Projects this year:

PR-0124-01 Vista Hill Jan \$ 2,000.00  
PR-0224-01 Chula Vista Community Collaborative Feb \$ 2,000.00  
PR-0224-02 United Through Reading Feb \$ 2,591.34  
PR-0224-03 Urban Street Angels Feb \$ 4,716.52  
PR-0224-04 Girls Rising Above Child Exploitation (GRACE) Feb \$ 1,533.92  
PR-0324-01 Reach Out and Read Mar \$3,000.00  
PR-0324-02 Armed Services YMCA Mar \$5,047.00  
PR-0324-03 Foundation for Women Warriors Mar \$5,000.00  
PR-0324-04 Perkins Elementary School (special project) Mar \$3,500.00  
PR-0324-05 Friends of Scott Mar \$2,000.00  
PR-0324-06 San Diego Youth Ballet Mar \$3,500.00  
PR-0424-01 Home Start Apr \$1,005.00  
PR-0424-02 Voices For Children Apr \$2,000.00  
PR-0424-03 Boys To Men Apr \$1,005.00  
PR-0424-04 Boys To Men Apr \$1,867.75  
PR-0424-05 Get On The Bus (GOTB) Apr \$3,000.00

## Grants This Year:

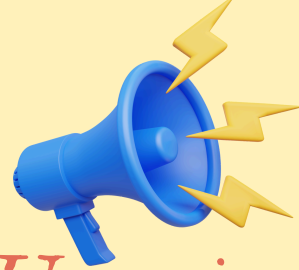
### GRANTS/Monthly TREASURER

GR-0224-01 David's Harp Foundation (DHF) year \$ 6,000.00 \$998.85  
GR-0224-02 San Diego Military Outreach Ministry (MOM) year \$ 6,000.00 \$1,823.32  
GR-0224-03 Nativity Prep Academy (NPA) year \$ 6,000.00 \$285.57  
GR-0224-04 Birthline year \$ 6,000.00 \$772.11  
GR-0224-05 I CARE - SD Youth Services year \$ 6,000.00  
GR-0224-06 Perkins Elementary year \$ 6,000.00 \$801.98  
GR-0224-07 Got Your Back year \$ 10,000.00 \$3,444.60  
GR-0224-08 Storefront - SD Youth Services year \$ 12,000.00  
GR-0224-09 Youth Assistance Coalition (YAC) year \$ 12,000.00 \$1,563.16  
GR-0224-10 Solutions for Change year \$ 6,000.00 \$3,216.23

# Welcome New Members!

Mila Albertson  
Stephanie Anderson  
David Bodkin  
Marita Bodkin  
Andrew Gade  
Janine Gardner  
Kathy Bryan  
Sharon Carney  
Mary Ann Carroll  
Josee Chouinard-Cox  
Kip Davis  
Jennie Ellsworth  
Andrew Gade  
Janine Gardner

Sandi Henderson  
Alfred Higgs  
Janice Howard  
Heidi Iverson  
Sarah Kulke  
Kathleen Nielsen  
Laura Orozco  
Robert Rutherford  
Parmela Sawhney  
Jane Simeral  
Sandra Tredwell



## Upcoming Events

**July 13th -**

**FOCUS "Light Up The Night"**

Annual Gala on USS Midway

Reservations: [FocusGala24.givesmart.com](http://FocusGala24.givesmart.com)

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**Backpack Program**

**July 22 & 23**

Volunteers needed!!

Please contact Sharon Shelton

619-313-7827

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**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.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

June Birthdays

June 08 - Patricia Fitzgerald

June 12 - Shelley Uyesugi

June 21 - Dotty Turner

June 25 - Therese Pallares





**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



## **Backpack Program**

**Volunteers Needed!**



**July  
22 & 23**

**Contact  
Sharon Shelton  
619.313.7827**

### **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)



# F.O.C.U.S. SALUTES AND SUPPORTS SAN DIEGO MILITARY FAMILIES

San Diego is home to 110,000 active-duty military personnel and more than 118,000 of their family members. However, due to the high cost of living in San Diego and recent inflation, many of these families are struggling. Here's some surprising stats. Currently there are 45,000 service members who go to the food bank every single month to put food on the table. Along with that the military child care waitlist is 4,000 spots long!

FOCUS is well aware of some of the challenges facing, in particular, junior enlisted military families. So, last Thursday night, FOCUS saluted and celebrated all the great work being done by several local agencies at an event held at the famous Top Gun IBAR at Naval Air Station North Island. The event was called, "Salute to the Military" and was attended by over 70 FOCUS members and other guests. In attendance were representatives from six local agencies: Armed Services YMCA, Support the Enlisted Project (STEP), San Diego Military Outreach Mission (SD MOM), Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS), Foundation for Women Warriors (FWW) and United Through Reading (UTR).

It was a wonderful evening full of gratitude and tribute to all of those who have and currently serve and an opportunity for guests to talk and learn more about the missions and programs of each of these agencies that provide a "social safety net" to young sailors and marines when they experience financial and other types of emergencies. There was much mingling of guests with flight-suited "real life" Tom Cruises along with lots of selfies taken among the hanging beer steins and squadron memorabilia. With an open bar and delicious "all you can eat" taco buffet, folks were sated enough to listen attentively to a short program where each agency's mission and programs, along with how FOCUS has supported each agency was highlighted. Then because they are in the midst of a huge \$6.5M expansion campaign, the CEO of STEP, Tony Teravainen, a former Navy submariner spoke a few minutes about what this campaign will do to expand STEP's services to military families.

FOCUS' next big event will be their annual fundraiser/gala on July 13, 2024 held on the USS MIDWAY Museum. This year's theme is "Light Up the Night" and it guarantees to be an amazing summer evening filled with live music, gourmet dinner, Live and Silent Auction, Raffle and "Raise the Paddle". Last year's event was enjoyed by over 300 guests, so we are hoping for even more to join us this year. For tickets, please go to [FocusGala24.givesmart.com](https://FocusGala24.givesmart.com).

