



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](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,

Second Chance and David's Harp speakers, Bill Payne and Brandon Steppe entertained us with great stories at our February meeting. They told us how they provide valuable training and support to help San Diego youth get their lives back on track. Upcoming monthly Membership Meetings provide a chance to learn how FOCUS support immeasurably helps change and improve the lives of so many children.

My message at that meeting and here today is this: When you are asked to volunteer or to serve on a committee ... please do. Whether it is time or treasure, we need your help. You will be given a variety of opportunities to support FOCUS this year. Each offers the chance to have fun and make friends while providing an invaluable service to our community. We really do make a difference in the lives of many children. Thank you!

MARCH MEETING
YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

FOCUS
FRIENDS OF CHILDREN UNITED SOCIETY

March 21 | 5:00 PM
Coronado Cays Yacht Club

SPEAKER AGENCIES:
SAFE HARBOR & PERKINS SCHOOL

RESERVATIONS: FOCUSMAR.GIVESMART.COM
QUESTIONS: info@focus-sdkids.org

FOCUS announces Annual Gala



Secure your seats or table NOW!
FocusGala24.givesmart.com

FOCUS
FRIENDS OF CHILDREN UNITED SOCIETY

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.

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

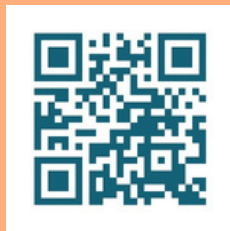
**Foster Care
Homelessness
Schools
Literacy
Safe Housing
Rehabilitation
Military
Health & Well-Being**

Volunteers Needed

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

Work on the Gala Committee (varying roles)

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.

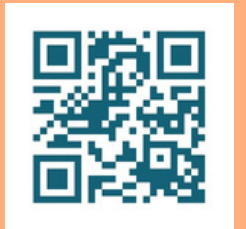
The join/renew page can also be reached via our website:

www.focus-sdkids.org

Any questions will be answered

by submitting to:

membership@focus-sdkids.org.

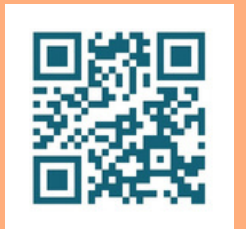


Donate

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



Welcome New Members!

Zachary Anderson
Jaycee Anderson
Kim Cimini
Mary Ann Carroll

Join the fun!



**COME STUFF DIAPER BAGS FOR
San Diego Military Outreach Ministries (MOM)**

When: Tuesday, March 5, 2024
Time: 10 AM - 12 noon
Where: Bahama Village Clubhouse

San Diego Military Outreach Ministries (MOM) will host a HUGE baby/diaper bag distribution event on 7 March at Naval Air Station, North Island. The baby bags will benefit new moms from various aviation squadrons in the area. FOCUS is not only buying the diaper bags and some of the baby items to support this event BUT we have volunteered to help SDMOM "stuff" the bags and get them ready for delivery. The goal is to "stuff" 80 diaper bags.

Of course, to make this event even more fun there will be **free mimosas and little breakfast "bites"** for all the volunteers. Hope to see you there.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- March 3 - Ethel Kallsen
- March 8 - Frank Spitzer
- March 9 - Paul Granger
- March 10 - Anthea Rodget
- March 12 - Denise Donato-McConnell
- March 12 - Amy Eberle
- March 23 - Anne Nuttall
- March 31 - Donna Sorenson



Upcoming Events

Mar 21 - FOCUS Dinner/Meeting at CCYC
Guest Speakers:

Fernando Hernandez, Principal of Perkins Elementary School (K-8th grade) in Barrio Logan. Principal Hernandez will discuss how he and his dedicated staff deal with the extra "stressors" - homelessness, divorce or family separation, and trauma that these students experience.

Danielle Maske from Safe Harbor Coronado (they provide comprehensive social, behavioral, emotional, and mental health programs and counseling to empower Coronado youth, their families, and our community.

Reservations: \$35/person at
focusmar.givesmart.com

RUMMAGE SALE

The FOCUS rummage sale has been rescheduled to early September. When you do your Spring cleaning be sure to save your saleable items to be donated to FOCUS. The exact date will be confirmed in the April newsletter. It's a lot of fun and camaraderie so be prepared to help out!

**July 13th - FOCUS "Light Up The Night"
Annual Gala on USS Midway**
Reservations: FocusGala24.givesmart.com



Pre-order your table or seat(s) NOW at givesmart.com/LightUpTheNight

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2024 Annual Gala
SAVE THE DATE!

Light Up The
NIGHT

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2024 APPROVED GRANTS

The following agencies have been awarded an annual grant to cover most needed monthly expenses

1. David's Harp
2. Mom- Military Outreach Ministries
3. Nativity Prep Academy
4. Birthline
5. Solutions for Change
6. Got Your Back
7. Storefront- San Diego Youth Services
8. I Care - San Diego Youth Services
9. Youth Assistance Coalition
10. Perkins school PreK - 8th grade



Total Distribution is \$78,000.00 for this year!
This is in addition to our projects voted on monthly.

Our History

The Friends of Children United Society (FOCUS) traces its origins to early 1982 in Coronado, California. A national organization known as WAIF (founded by actress Jane Russell) served as a source of inspiration to a group of dedicated and highly motivated women in the Coronado Cays to found FOCUS. From WAIF to FOCUS reflects a number of changes and associations with organizations like The Travelers' Aid Society and Friends of Travelers before becoming the locally well-known and highly respected organization now known as FOCUS. The FOCUS name was created by Bobbe Cetti and the original logo was designed by Ruth Friedman.

The motivation and drive of the women involved in creating FOCUS was centered on improving the quality of life for needy and abused children in San Diego County. This commitment and the pressing needs of children continued and FOCUS evolved to meet the ever-growing challenge. In 2009, FOCUS became more inclusive with the invitation to men to join our membership. Advances in technology required FOCUS to adapt and enhanced communication methods with the establishment of a website and Facebook link. The additional association with Amazon Smile provided a means of funding and membership involvement.

Through increased membership, the success of major fundraisers and countywide recognition, FOCUS has broadened its scope with fulfillment of larger requests, year round grants, vehicle purchases and the more critical, urgent needs of our charity partners. Because of our members and all who have contributed their expertise, finances, and services to the organization, FOCUS continues the original mission to assist the needy children of San Diego County today.



LOOKING FOR "HANDS ON" OPPORTUNITY TO HELP SAN DIEGO YOUTH?

Every FIRST Tuesday of the month, FOCUS volunteers provide dinner (entree, salad and dessert) for approximately 40-50 youth people at YAC facility in Barrio Logan.

This is a great opportunity to see what YAC provides and the wonderful safe and compassionate environment they provide. If interested pls contact, Jeri Barsz at 619-519-5132 or email: geraldinemarie@yahoo.com cbacon@focus-sdkids.org

