



# 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

## 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,

Thanks to many, many volunteers, the Holiday Boutique was a huge success. To all the members and amazing new interns that donated food, donated to the FOCUS table, registered our guests, directed traffic, assisted vendors and who made the Giving Tree so successful...thank you! Thank you to all that kept the snack table beautifully arranged all day and to those that worked so hard at the FOCUS table. Finally, what a fabulous team was there at 5:30 am to set up the venue!!

If you're attending the Coronado Christmas parade, December 6, be sure to watch for lovely FOCUS entry, thanks to Jeri Barsz and Kathy Tyner.

Hope to see you all at the December 14 holiday dinner party at CCYC. All details and reservation information are in the following invitation.

Happy holidays!!!!





# FOCUS Holiday PARTY

CORONADO CAYS YACHT CLUB  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH  
5:00PM TO 10:00PM

PROGRESSIVE COCKTAILS  
ABOARD DECORATED BOATS IN THE YACHT BASIN  
PLATED 3 COURSE DINNER WITH WINES  
MUSIC & DANCING

RESERVE TODAY. LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE!  
\$ 75 ADULT / \$ 25 CHILDREN UNDER 16  
TABLE OF 8 ONLY \$575!

RSVP  
[FOCUSMAGIC24.GIVESMART.COM](https://focusmagic24.givesmart.com)



*It has been our privilege to serve as co-VPs for Membership this year. We added 53 new members to FOCUS this year and are thrilled to have many of them to already contributed so much of their time and made a significant impact. While we will be passing the baton in 2025, we are hoping that you will join us at our last member event of 2024, our Holiday Party on December 14th at the Coronado Cays Yacht Club. We have quite the party planned with a progressive cocktail boat party from 5:00 to 6:30pm, followed by a delicious plated dinner, then dancing to our friendly DJ from our last event at the Shores. Don't miss a chance to come share in the holiday spirit with fellow FOCUS members and friends. We will also have a sneak peak at our fabulous 2025 Gala from chairperson Kim Cimini! Thanks so much for making this an incredible year for FOCUS.*  
**Membership VPs, Mary Shapiro & Pat Robitaille**



# Projects & grants

Dear FOCUS members -

Thanks to a very successful Gala, other FOCUS events and many generous donors, FOCUS has been able to support in 2024 OVER 50 local agencies amounting to almost \$230,000 worth of essential items such as food, diapers, formula, baby items, warm clothing, school supplies, hygiene items, laptops and MUCH MORE. We also approved another \$70,000 to be spent via 3 MAJOR GRANTS to Support The Enlisted Project, David's Harp Foundation and Boys 2 Men for a outfitting a new children's room, roof repair to transitional housing and a new van respectively. This totals \$300,000 worth of grants and projects in 2024 - a new record amount given to the community!

ALL FOCUS MEMBERS SHOULD BE INCREDIBLY PROUD OF THIS NEW LEVEL OF SUPPORT. WHEN PEOPLE ASK YOU "WHY ARE YOU A MEMBER OF FOCUS?" – THIS IS WHY!

It is always very satisfying as Project VPs to be able to discover NEW local agencies that help kids, as well as continuing to support those we have been supporting for YEARS! As an example, here are some new agencies that we supported in 2024:

- "Get On the Bus", a local nonprofit whose mission is to foster interaction of incarcerated parents with their children. We supported their visit to Calpatría prison in April 2024 by purchasing lunches for the 135 children and escorts during their bus trip to the prison.
- "Outdoor Adventure" is nonprofit that provides (just like the name) great camping, surfing, swimming, canoeing and other outdoor activities to middle-high school age children in San Diego schools who would otherwise never afford to participate in these activities. FOCUS was thrilled to help purchase a significant amount of new equipment for these field trips.
- "El Nido (The Nest)" is a shelter for women and their children who have suffered from domestic abuse. It is sponsored by the Interfaith Shelter Network. This year we purchased diapers, wipes, educational toys and much more to support these families who have had to flee with nothing.
- "Perkins K-8 School" is a public school located just across the bridge near Petco Park. It has been a really special relationship that has developed this year between the Principal and his staff and FOCUS members. Perkins has the challenge of educating children whose families are either homeless, living in shelters or very low income. FOCUS has purchased everything from diapers and clothing to food and new tables for classrooms.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GRANT SHOPPERS IN 2024: SUE GORMICAN, MARY MARGARET OMOHUNDRO, PEGGY DUNCAN, DIANE FOLSOM, CLARICE PERKINS, CARIN CROSS, DENISE DONATO MCCONNELL AND ROGER CLAPP. SPECIAL THANKS TO JERI BARSZ FOR COORDINATING MONTHLY DINNERS AT YOUTH ASSISTANCE COALITION THROUGH THE YEAR! We couldn't do this work without all of you! The agencies you have supported are so appreciative.

Also a huge hug of thanks to the many other FOCUS members (too many to mention) that have shopped for projects throughout the year. You are the best!

2025 VPs for Projects will be Carla Bacon and Rhonda Fleming. Two dynamite women with big hearts who are ready to serve! They look forward to more great agency partnerships in 2025.

Sharon Shelton  
[sshelton@focus-sdkids.org](mailto:sshelton@focus-sdkids.org)



**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



## December Birthdays

01 - Carmel Fleck  
06 - Barbara Donahue  
07 - Gerry Gelfand  
07 - Brian Hull  
15 - Mike Durgin  
21 - Carla O'Connell  
24 - Trisha Ross  
27 - Pat McDonough



### 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)





Please plan to attend the  
January membership  
meeting. It's your chance to  
welcome the 2025 FOCUS  
Board of Directors.  
Watch for details!



## *Upcoming Events*

**December 14th**

### **Creating Magic Holiday Party**

5:00pm - 10:00pm

Coronado Cays Yacht Club

PROGRESSIVE COCKTAILS  
ABOARD DECORATED BOATS  
IN THE YACHT BASIN

PLATED 3 COURSE DINNER WITH WINES  
MUSIC & DANCING

RESERVE TODAY. LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE!  
\$ 75 ADULT / \$ 25 CHILDREN UNDER 16  
TABLE OF 8 ONLY \$575!

**RSVP**

**FOCUSMAGIC24.GIVESMART.COM**

## FOCUS Interns



### New members

Martha Bruns  
Dana Langham  
LuAnn Miller  
Veronica Worthington



**Have a safe  
and happy  
Holiday!**