

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



#### **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, PEGGY DUNCAN

#### Dear FOCUS Members and Friends of FOCUS,

Fall is upon us and we have lots of fun plans as we near the end of 2025! Please join us at the fabulous functions described in this newsletter. I want to highlight our upcoming Holiday Party on December 13! We are excited to announce that the fantastic local band The Suenamis will be our entertainers for the evening! This is shaping up to be an incredibly fun and festive night, so mark your calendars and get your dance moves ready now.

We're also excited for our annual Holiday Boutique on November 15. We have more (and better!) vendors than ever before. We could still use some volunteers to help run this event and to donate snacks for our treat table. Please check our Sign Up Genius for available shifts. Or you can just email me for more information.

Finally, you will be receiving some emails, asking for help as we plan for 2026. Please complete our Member Survey - it will take less than ten minutes and will really help us improve your member experience with FOCUS. Also - please think about serving on a FOCUS Committee or the FOCUS Board of Directors. Nomination forms will be coming out very soon.

As we inch toward the holiday season, I am so grateful for the community support of FOCUS. This is such a special organization, relying solely on dedicated volunteers to create a significant impact in the lives of children in our area. Thank you for being a part of this meaningful work!





FOCUS was honored to be recognized by the Coronado Chamber of Commerce at this year's Celebrate Coronado! Community Awards Dinner. The annual event recognizes exemplary Coronado city employees, and also showcases local organizations that have been members of the Chamber of Commerce for many years. FOCUS was recognized for 35 years of membership! FOCUS President Peggy Duncan and FOCUS Membership VPs Michaelle Arkin and Arie Van Vugt were on hand to accept the award.









## September MEETING RECAP

We had a great meeting in September, where we heard from one of our long-standing FOCUS partners, Nativity Prep Academy. Kristin Haygood, the Nativity Prep Director of Advancement, described the school's incredible curriculum. Nativity Prep is an all-scholarship middle school for young men and women from historically under-resourced communities who represent the first generation of their family to graduate from college. They support their students long after they finish middle school, providing mentorship and resources all the way through college and beyond.

We heard from Valerye Avalos who, along with her seven siblings, graduated from Nativity Prep. After completing her college degree, Valerye returned to Nativity Prep, where she now works with the next generation of students. Finally, we heard from Nayomi, a current 7th grader, who expressed her gratitude to FOCUS for providing the computers and other resources that the Nativity Prep students use on a daily basis.



In addition to our guest speakers, FOCUS members received an update on ongoing projects and volunteer opportunities, and they were encouraged to get involved!!









# MEMBERSHP UPDATE \*\*\*

It's that time of year again—time to renew your FOCUS membership! You can easily pay your membership dues online or at any of our upcoming events, ensuring your membership remains active through 2026.

In the next month, keep an eye out for a brief survey regarding our Membership Directory. We're excited to announce plans to make the directory available online through a password-protected portal, as well as in print for those who prefer a hard copy. Your input will be invaluable, so please take a moment to complete the survey when it arrives. Let us know if you'd like to be included in the directory and what information you'd like to share with fellow members.

We're also happy to be working on some extra benefits for members who stay current with their FOCUS membership, set to roll out next year. So - be sure to renew your membership!



## FOCUS INTERNS

Our new class of FOCUS Interns held their first meeting in September. They are an exceptional group and have great plans for the coming year!



# Projects & grants 1/1/1



Projects Report Carla Bacon, VP of Projects

What a September we have had and October is picking up speed!

This month we gave Safe Harbor the means to print their Turtle Time Books and stickers. These books teach children calming techniques to help with verbal skills and appropriate behavior.

We have also helped Christie's Place to host a community Halloween event for the families of children with AIDS/HIV.

For the first time, FOCUS is supporting the Community and Youth Services division of the San Diego Police by providing Thanksgiving meals to 20 families.

And, we purchased two special basketball retrieving machines for children learning to play basketball, using a wheelchair. The agency is called Roll to Success! We hope these machines make the play more enjoyable and allow these children to become more self-confident!

FOCUS has chosen to help 10 families in Navy Housing (E-5 and below) with dinner and gifts for the children for the Holidays. We would love a few people to help each family. You can get together with friends or we will assign groups. I already have some volunteers from our October vote. Please contact me if you would like to join us in giving some happiness to local Military families.

cbacon@focus-sdkids.org



Our Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to fill our slate of Board Members for 2026. Please watch for a Nomination Form and nominate yourself or someone you know who would make a meaningful contribution to our Board.

If you don't want to complete the form, you can always reach out to Peggy Duncan with your suggestions at pduncan@focus-sdkids.org

We are proud that FOCUS is run entirely by volunteers. But we need more help to spread the load! Please consider stepping up to serve on the Board or a Committee. It is a wonderful experience!





## 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



## New Sign Up Sheet for Volunteers!



**FOCUS Volunteers Wanted!** 

Please check out our Volunteer Sign Up Sheet for some wonderful opportunities to get involved with our agency partners. There are new dates for serving dinner at YAC, distributing food at Harborside Elementary, and helping out in the classroom at the Perkins School.

You can also find the Sign Up Sheet by going to our website (<u>focus-sdkids.org</u>) and scrolling to the bottom to find the button marked "Click HERE to Volunteer!"



### WELCOME New members



Deberie Grobe Erin Brophy

#### Join /Renew

Please join FOCUS (or renew your 2024 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.
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





## **FOCUS = Happy Kids**



## October Birthdays



- 07 Sharon Sherman
- 15 Michael Alves
- 19 Carolyn Carswell
- 22 Michaelle Arkin
- 30 Fred Kallsen

## Upcoming Events

### August 1, 2026: FOCUS Fundraising Gala - theme to be revealed soon!

Contact us if you have access to items that would be great for our silent or live auction!

Consider helping us with this event. Our annual gala provides more than 90% of our funding for the entire year, enabling us to do the life-changing work for local kids in need. We could use your help! We're working to restructure the volunteer positions for the gala to make it easier on everyone. So when the call comes, please consider joining us!

#### October 16th

Annual Membership Drive & Meeting at Coronado VFW 5:30-8:30

#### October 22nd

Halloween Candy Bagging
Bahama Clubhouse 4-6
Bring a bag or 2 of candy and ic

Bring a bag or 2 of candy and join us for drinks and snacks!

#### October 24th

FOCUS Booth at Halloween



Happenings Spreckels Park 3:30-5:30

#### **November 15th**

Holiday Boutique Coronado Cays Yacht Club 9:00 - 2:00

#### Saturday, December 13th

FOCUS Holiday Party Coronado Cays Yacht Club 5:30

with the Suenamis!!