



# 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, PEGGY DUNCAN

Dear FOCUS Members and Friends of FOCUS,

IT IS A FUN AND EXCITING TIME OF YEAR, AND WE HAVE SEVERAL WONDERFUL EVENTS COMING UP IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. FIRST IS OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE, HAPPENING THIS SATURDAY AT THE CORONADO CAYS YACHT CLUB. THIS BELOVED HOLIDAY TRADITION IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE HARD WORK AND PLANNING OF MANY VOLUNTEERS, LED AGAIN THIS YEAR BY THE AMAZING SHARYN BLONGIEWICZ. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO SHARYN!

RESERVATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE ANNUAL FOCUS HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE CORONADO CAYS YACHT CLUB ON DECEMBER 13. THIS WILL BE A SUPER FUN NIGHT WITH MUSIC AND DANCING TO THE SUENAMIS! WE WILL BE SERVING A DELICIOUS PLATED DINNER - YOU CAN CHOOSE GRILLED RIBEYE, PAN-SEARED SEABASS OR EGGPLANT PARMESAN. AND WE WILL HAVE SOME GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES AND OTHER SURPRISES. WE HAVE A LOT TO CELEBRATE THIS YEAR, SO - DRESS IN YOUR HOLIDAY BEST AND JOIN US!

WHILE WE HAVE MUCH TO CELEBRATE, ENJOY, AND BE THANKFUL FOR, WE RECOGNIZE THAT MANY OF OUR NEIGHBORS ARE STRUGGLING - INCLUDING CHILDREN. OUR WORK HERE AT FOCUS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER, AND WE ARE WORKING HARD TO MAKE AN EVEN BIGGER IMPACT IN 2026. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING SOME EXCITING PLANS WITH YOU VERY SOON.

IN THE MEANTIME, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO EMBRACE THE SPIRIT OF THIS SPECIAL SEASON, STAY WELL, AND ENJOY THE MOMENTS THAT BRING US TOGETHER. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND DEDICATION TO OUR CAUSE.



Don't forget to come by our Holiday Boutique on Saturday!

This event is happening - rain or shine.

We will take necessary action to be sure that our vendors and guests have a wonderful time at the event - even if it's pouring.



**FOCUS**  
FRIENDS OF CHILDREN UNITED SOCIETY

# HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

NOVEMBER 15, 2025

9 AM - 2 PM

CORONADO CAYS YACHT CLUB

30 CARIBE CAY BLVD

\$10 ENTRY  
-----  
EXCITING  
RAFFLE  
PRIZES!

MORE THAN 50  
LOCAL VENDORS!  
FREE CHAMPAGNE  
COCKTAIL &  
SNACKS!

A great way to kick off the  
holiday season!  
[www.focus-sdkids.com](http://www.focus-sdkids.com)

All proceeds benefit San Diego County kids in need



GIVING  
TUESDAY

As you make your plan for Giving Tuesday, please remember FOCUS, where volunteers ensure that over 95% of funds raised are deployed to help local kids in need.

Now more than ever we are called to make a difference.



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## Volunteers NEEDED

Are you eager to get more involved with FOCUS but don't know where to begin? We're excited to announce some new changes coming in 2026, aimed at including and engaging more of our members! To make things easier, we'll be breaking our initiatives into smaller, more manageable parts, particularly regarding Projects and the Gala. If you'd like to learn more and find out how you can contribute, please reach out to Peggy Duncan at [pduncan@focus-sdkids.org](mailto:pduncan@focus-sdkids.org) or Pat Robitaille at [probitaille@focus-sdkids.org](mailto:probitaille@focus-sdkids.org). We can't wait to collaborate with you!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE



*Creating magic*  
**HOLIDAY  
PARTY**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025**

**CORONADO CAYS YACHT CLUB**

**5:30 PM - COCKTAILS**

**(FIRST ROUND ON US)**

**6:30 PM - PLATED 3 COURSE DINNER**

**WITH WINES**

***Music & Dancing to the  
fabulous Suenamis band!***

***Holiday raffle & fun surprises***

**RESERVE TODAY!**

**\$75 ADULT/\$25 CHILD UNDER 16**

**TABLE OF 8 FOR \$575**

**[FocusHoliday25.givesmart.com](https://FocusHoliday25.givesmart.com)**

# Thank you

RECENTLY, WE WERE PLEASED TO HONOR SOME OF THE MAJOR DONORS WHO HELPED TO MAKE OUR 2025 SPEAKEASY GALA A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS. THESE GUESTS WERE THE FIRST TO LEARN ABOUT OUR EXCITING THEME FOR NEXT YEAR'S GALA: THE FOCUS DISCO FEVER FUNDRAISER WILL BE BACK ON THE USS Midway on August 1, 2026!



# Projects & grants



WE ARE ON FIRE! LAST MONTH, WE GOT A CRY FROM URBAN STREET ANGELS. BED BUGS.

FOCUS DELIVERED SWEATS FOR ALL THE KIDS SO THEY COULD STERILIZE THE CLOTHES THEY HAD. THEN WE PROVIDED LARGE HEATING BAGS FOR THE MATTRESSES AND SOFAS. WHAT A CRAZY MESS.

FOCUS IS PROVIDING BOOKS AND STUFFED ANIMALS FOR 300 FOSTER CHILDREN WITH VOICES FOR CHILDREN.

TO TOP OFF OCTOBER, FOCUS DONATED AMAZING AMOUNTS OF FOOD TO THE I.B. FOOD PANTRY AS PART OF CORONADO'S "CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER." THIS WAS A JOINT EFFORT AMONG MANY CORONADO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO RESTOCK THIS BUSY FOOD PANTRY. WE HAVE TO THANK BILL AND SUE MCLEOD FROM 'GOT YOUR BACK' FOR PARTNERING WITH US TO BRING 600 CANS OF GREEN BEANS AND 600 PASTA PACKAGES DOWN FROM CARLSBAD. WE ADDED \$1,500.00 WORTH OF CANNED VEGGIES AND FRUIT, BREAD, CANNED MEATS, AND BOXED MILK. THAT WAS IN ADDITION TO OUR GENEROUS FOCUS MEMBERS, WHO BROUGHT FOOD TO OUR DROP-OFF LOCATIONS. THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROJECT (AND ALLOWING US TO SHOW CORONADO HOW WONDERFUL AND GENEROUS OUR FOCUS MEMBERS ARE!)

NOW FOR NEXT MONTH.....

WE HAVE SO MANY REQUESTS BECAUSE TIMES ARE TIGHT.

CHRISTIE'S PLACE, WHOSE MISSION IS DEDICATED TO SERVING WOMEN, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY HIV/AIDS, HAS ASKED FOR HELP WITH THEIR UGLY SWEATER PARTY. THE SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT, COMMUNITY AND YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION, IS ASKING FOR BIKES AND GIFTS FOR CHILDREN NEEDING HELP IN TOUGH NEIGHBORHOODS. JUST IN TIME IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT HELPS FOSTER CHILDREN ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY. THEY ARE ALSO ASKING FOR GIFTS AND ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE CHILDREN THEY SERVE.

WE ARE LOOKING AT A COUPLE OF NEW ORGANIZATIONS....

HEY: HEAL AND EMPOWER YOUTH, PROMOTES HEALING AND EMPOWERMENT TO THE MOST VULNERABLE YOUTH. THEY WOULD LIKE US TO HELP THEM FILL THEIR GIFT BAGS FOR THESE CHILDREN.

THE OTHER NEW ORGANIZATION IS 'NEXT UP'. THEY HELP FOSTER CHILDREN NAVIGATE THE INS AND OUTS OF LIFE, INCLUDING HOUSING, MEDICAL NEEDS, TRANSPORTATION, COMPUTERS....LIFE!

WE TOOK SOME EXTRA TIME TO SPEAK WITH THE HEADS OF A FEW OF OUR LONG-TIME AGENCIES. STOREFRONT GIVES KIDS ON THE STREET A PLACE TO SLEEP, EAT AND FORM A COMMUNITY. THEY ARE REQUIRED TO STAY IN HIGH SCHOOL. MOST OF THEM ARE RUNNING FROM PARENTS WITH DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE ISSUES. MANY ARE RUNNING FROM PHYSICAL ABUSE. DENISE DONATO-McCONNELL IS OUR LIAISON AT STOREFRONT, AND SHE REPORTS THAT THE KIDS NEED TABLETS TO COMPLETE HOMEWORK AND ENJOY PROGRAMMING ON WI-FI.

YOUTH ASSISTANCE COALITION (YAC) HAS ASKED FOR JEANS FOR THE YOUNG MEN COMING INTO THEIR CENTER.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR OUR VOTING THIS MONTH. WE HAVE TO BE FAST TO GET ALL THE HOLIDAY MERCHANDISE OUT TO OUR ORGANIZATIONS TIMELY.

I AM STILL WORKING WITH SILVER STRAND SCHOOL TO PUT TOGETHER OUR "ADOPT A MILITARY FAMILY" PROGRAM. I WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO VOLUNTEERED TO HELP!

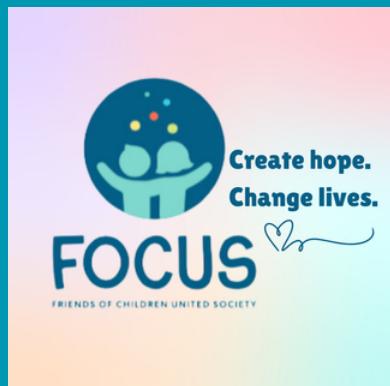
WE TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, WHICH MAKES A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF CHILDREN - ESPECIALLY DURING THIS SEASON! THANK YOU FOR BEING A VALUED PART OF OUR MISSION.



# Membership

THANK YOU FOR COMING TO OUR OCTOBER MEMBER MEETING, WHICH DOUBLED AS OUR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE AND MILITARY NIGHT. THE VFW WAS A NEW VENUE FOR US, AND OUR MEMBERS PACKED THE HOUSE! ESPECIALLY DURING THIS VETERANS' DAY, WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR AGENCY PARTNERS THAT SUPPORT MILITARY FAMILIES.

OCT



## FOCUS Interns



Our FOCUS interns had the opportunity to tour the David's Harp Foundation, whose mission is "To inspire, educate, and empower system-affected and homeless youth to achieve academic success through music education, sound engineering and multimedia production." Adrian Cantero, David's Harp Community Engagement Manager and a graduate of their program, explained how they reach young people who desperately need mentorship - often while they're still in juvenile detention. They build relationships and teach the skills that the young people carry forward into successful careers in music and video production. Several FOCUS members also joined the tour, which was inspiring for all. FOCUS is proud to partner with an agency that is making a tremendous impact on the lives of at-risk youth in our community.



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS WHO GENEROUSLY DONATED HALLOWEEN CANDY AND ASSISTED IN FILLING BAGS FOR THE COMMUNITY EVENT AT SPRECKELS PARK! WE STUFFED OVER 800 BAGS! THE FOCUS BOOTH WAS A HIGHLIGHT FOR THE CHILDREN, FEATURING TWO ACTIVITIES ALONGSIDE OUR WONDERFUL CANDY BAGS. SPECIAL THANKS GO OUT TO OUR VOLUNTEERS, INCLUDING OUR FANTASTIC FOCUS INTERNS, WHO MADE THE BOOTH A SUCCESS!

FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE HAD SOME LEFTOVER CANDY, WHICH WE SHARED WITH KIDS AT FOCUS PARTNERS PERKINS SCHOOL AND HARBORSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

# THANK YOU!





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 ([focus-sdkids.org](http://focus-sdkids.org)) and scrolling to the bottom to find the button marked "Click HERE to Volunteer!"



## New members

Mila Albertson  
Francisco Bye  
Margaret Moss  
Mark O'Brien  
Stephanie Petersen  
Linda Silver  
Ken Uyesugi



## 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](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)





## FOCUS = Happy Kids



## November Birthdays

- 2 - Dave Fleck
- 6 - Sebrinna Gavzie
- 8 - Juliane Morris
- 16 - Carol Dobi
- 20 - Dana Langham
- 24 - Steve Bowman
- 26 - Ed Robitaille

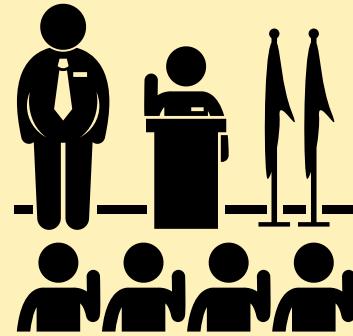


**November 15th**  
 Holiday Boutique  
 Coronado Cays  
 Yacht Club  
 9:00 - 2:00

**Saturday, December 13th**  
 FOCUS Holiday Party  
 Coronado Cays Yacht Club  
 5:30  
 with the Suenamis!!



**Annual Member Meeting & Swearing In:**  
**January 15, 2026**



**FOCUS Disco Fever Fundraising Gala:**  
**August 1, 2026**

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!

 **New Sign Up Sheet  
for Volunteers!**

You can also find the Sign Up Sheet by going to our website ([focus-sdkids.org](http://focus-sdkids.org))

