

# In\_FOCUS

FOCUS Marines Foundation  
Summer 2019



## Key to FOCUS

The reason the FOCUS program has been so effective and continues to succeed resides in its commitment to the Marine identity. The Corps has long ago realized the key to victory on the battlefield is character. Furthermore, it developed methods to train character. The strength to move a body is useless without the belief and will to do it. Finally, Marines throughout our history have discovered that the character built in the Corps is quite advantageous in life after their service to our beloved Marine Corps.

The Marine ethos is often summarized down to three broader categories of courage, honor, and commitment. They can be simply defined as acting despite fear, doing the right thing when it's hardest to do, and duty-bound. They can also be demonstrated. Neither will train our ethos, however. They must be built through their antithesis. Courage is built through constant exposure to fear and experience outside our comfort zones. Honor is built through unfair circumstances and an expectation to fairly respond to them. Commitment is built through constant failure and uncompromising resolute performance regardless.

This is the FOCUS key to success. Where others see damage and loss, we see growth. Character is built just like any other muscle in the body. Similarly, it often involves pain. No pain-no gain. The Participants have encountered the pain. FOCUS assists in finding the gain. The Participants have experiences that will give them strength to overcome present and future challenges, to lead in the civilian sector as they did in service.

The FOCUS program demonstrates this at every session. Older Team Leaders who have proven how far Marine character can take you guiding younger Marines just starting their journey.

Training, pain, and growth. It takes character and FOCUS.

Semper Fi.

Nick Popaditch

## From the Development Desk

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual FOCUS Marines Foundation Mess Night-St. Louis will be taking place Thursday, October 17, 2019. This event was a huge success for us last year as it raised much needed funds and awareness for FMF.

What is a Mess Night fundraiser, you ask? Well, quite simply, it is a Dinner and Auction evening that is born of military tradition, filled with humor, “very serious” rules, and a whole lot of fun!

This year, Mess Night is being held at Defiance Ridge Vineyards in Defiance, MO - just minutes away from the location of our FOCUS Sessions. Tickets will be limited and available for purchase online later this summer for \$100 each. Your ticket will include cocktail hour, dinner, dessert, participation in our silent auction and fund-a-need items, as well as front row seats to listen to our special guest speakers. There will also be 3 levels of event sponsorship available: Purple Heart-\$250, Bronze Star-\$1,000, and Silver Star-\$2,500.

If you would like to support this event but are unable to attend or sponsor, we are looking for donated items or baskets for the silent auction. Some examples of items that could be donated are:

- Tickets to Sporting Events in St. Louis, like Cardinals or Blues Games
- Tickets or Family Memberships to Museums such as Botanical Gardens, Zoo, Magic House
- Tickets or Passes to Family Activities such as Movies, Skyzone, Bumper Cars, Batting Cages, Holiday Shows, etc.
- Gift Cards to Restaurants
- Signed Sports Memorabilia in good condition
- Bottles of Wine or Premium Liquors
- Themed Baskets such as Baby, Movie Night, Family Game Night, Beauty/Pamper Yourself, Car Care, Beachy Vacay, Cozy Winter, etc.

**(For Questions/Donations, please email [stacy@focusmarines.org](mailto:stacy@focusmarines.org))**



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Just one more way to support FOCUS and its mission!

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## Post-FOCUS Follow-Up

On the last day of every FOCUS Session there is a graduation ceremony. Participants are given a Certificate of Completion as well as a hug or a heartfelt handshake that say, “thank you for having the courage to come and participate in this program and welcome to the FOCUS Family.” Being a part of the FOCUS Family means that we are going to continually check in on them and also provide information on resources that pertain to Employment, Education, Volunteer Organizations, Relationships, and Finances. A FOCUS Graduate can choose one or all of these areas for additional information and support. Our goal is to prioritize the biggest hurdle and facilitate a plan to help them overcome it.

Another resource provided to all graduates of the FOCUS program is the “Buddy Check 22 Conference Call.” On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of every month at 7:00 PM CST, all graduates are invited to call in to a conference call designed to give them the opportunity to check in and let us here at FOCUS know how they are doing, as well as receive support and give support to other FOCUS Graduates. On the Buddy Check 22 Conference call, Graduates from all classes can share what tools are working for them, what they may be struggling with and if they could benefit from more one on one support.

We continually strive to identify and build on the successes of their week at FOCUS and help our Graduates continue their personal growth after the program. These are just some of the steps being taken to achieve that success.



### In their own words...

“I know I have the tools and the ability to push through any obstacle in my life. Focus is an amazing and interesting place that truly was a blessing. Words can not describe how amazing the place and the people are. Thank you.”

“FOCUS is a once in a lifetime experience.”

“It was a truly spiritual experience for me. I was home!”

“I appreciate when you reached out. It saved my life. I know I have Marines who love me and say they will be there for me.”



## Save the Date!

### Mess Night—St. Louis

Thursday, October 17th, 2019

Defiance Ridge Vineyards

Join us for a fun, light-hearted dinner steeped in military tradition. This unique event will showcase FOCUS Marines Foundation's mission and the heroes we serve!

More details coming soon!



## Upcoming Events

### June 2019

-8 22 Strong Fundraiser  
-22 Buddy Check— Conference Call

### July 2019

-14th Wildwood Historical Society Car Show  
-22 Buddy Check— Conference Call

### August 2019

-22 Buddy Check

### September 2019

7-14 FOCUS Course  
22 Buddy Check – Conference Call

### October 2019

17 Mess Night—St. Louis  
22 Buddy Check – Conference Call

### December 2019

7-14 FOCUS Course  
22 Buddy Check – Conference Call

Find more event details  
at [www.focusmarines.org/calendar](http://www.focusmarines.org/calendar)



## FOCUS Marines Foundation

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