



In-FOCUS Newsletter

Fall 2022

FOCUS Marines Foundation *Where Things Start To Get Better*

A Change of Command for FOCUS...

Dear Focus Marines Foundation Supporters:

I am excited to announce that as of August 1, 2022, I will be stepping aside as President and Jennifer Jefferson will be taking over as Executive Director of Focus Marines Foundation. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as the President of Focus Marines Foundation for the past six years. Although I am stepping down as President, I will remain on the Board of Directors and continue to be actively involved with Focus Marines Foundation. Jennifer, a Marine Corps veteran, has been actively involved with Focus Marines Foundation for many years serving as a Team Leader, Graduate Mentor Program Coordinator, Board Secretary, and most recently as the Program Coordinator. She brings drive, determination and unmatched dedication to the Focus program and the veterans we serve. I, and the Board of Directors, are thrilled that Jennifer is stepping in as the Executive Director and look forward to working with her for many years to come.

Focus Marines Foundation has grown from an idea among Marine Corps veterans in 2010 to a nationally known and highly respected charitable organization that today has served over 900 injured veterans. This is only possible with the dedication and support of our volunteers, charitable donors, and other supporters. During my six years as President, I have been consistently amazed and humbled at the tremendous support our organization receives. I thank you for that and want you to know that because of your support, lives have been changed and lives have been saved. Please join me in congratulating and supporting Jennifer Jefferson as she leads Focus Marines Foundation into the future.

Semper Fidelis,
Dennis Simpson
President



Dennis Simpson
President



Jennifer Jefferson
Executive Director

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A Mission Back on Track

We have now had three amazing and successful sessions since resuming in-person classes. Throughout these courses held in Dec 2021, March 2022, and May 2022, FOCUS has had the privilege to serve 41 veterans through our life-changing week-long program. The graduates of these three courses included men and women from the Marines (33), Navy (5), Army (2), and Air Force (1).

Mentorship Remotely Delivered

What originally began as wellness check-ins during COVID shutdowns has grown into a training program to remediate FOCUS session training for Graduates. During the height of COVID shutdowns, concerns over isolation led to additional monthly remote get-togethers called the Buddy Check. Using Zoom as a platform, Graduates, Mentors, and Team Leaders reconnected with an agenda of camaraderie and morale.

As the Buddy Check grew in popularity, the potential for using this remote platform to remediate the training from the FOCUS sessions was quickly realized, and the first Mentor Training Program was born. Mentors trained with the program facilitators on not only the content material but also the most effective means of delivering it. These monthly “Re-FOCUS” sessions reconnected Graduates from around the country and proved to be more than just remediation. They packed all the power and compassion of the in-person sessions and covered all the material delivered in the FOCUS Program.

Now in its 3rd round, the Mentors have refined their knowledge and delivery to lead these monthly “Re-FOCUS” sessions very effectively on topics such as Programs and Lenses, The 3 R’s, and Victim/Responsible. They are conducted on the 3rd Tuesday monthly and begin with a ½ hour meet & greet time prior to the 1-hour training session. Additionally, every 3rd month a special session is facilitated by Dan Dorr and Sona van der Hoop with supplemental material designed to augment FOCUS session content.

“Re-FOCUS”, The Mentor Training Program, has continued to grow in popularity amongst the Graduates and has become a valuable tool for reinforcing lessons learned at FOCUS. In addition to that, the Buddy Check is still a monthly occurrence, so Graduates have two opportunities each month to reconnect, improve their knowledge, remediate material, and seek answers to new challenges.

Semper Fi,

Nick Popaditch, Program Director



Volunteer Spotlight

One of the biggest reasons FOCUS Marines Foundation is able to run such an amazing program for our veterans is the time and energy put in by our volunteers. It takes over 125 volunteers to prep, set up, and run every session we hold. These volunteers are a mix of civilians and veterans from all branches of the military, although fun fact - Marines make up about 30% of our volunteer force and civilians about 26%. What every one of our volunteers has in common though, is a love and a passion for helping our veterans in any way possible. Although all of our volunteers are special to us, we want to acknowledge and highlight one extra-special volunteer in this newsletter - Tricia Glosemeyer.

Tricia has been volunteering with FOCUS since 2015 when she joined the Transportation Team. While she is happy to tell everyone that she is just a driver for us, she is so much more than that. Not only is Tricia a hero outside of the FOCUS program, working as a 911 emergency dispatcher for Warren County and receiving multiple life-saving awards from the American Heart Association, but she is a FOCUS hero as well. She volunteers in every aspect of the FOCUS program: Transportation, Fundraising, Food Service, Session Set-Up/Take Down, Administration, the Graduate Program, and most recently, she has taken on all of FMF Social Media Posting. And, when Transportation Director, Tom Ilges, needs a backup during the session, Tricia steps in as his second in command, helping him lead the Transportation Team, which is essential to the success of a FOCUS week. Not many people would use four weeks of their vacation time from work to volunteer all day and night, plus countless hours and days in between sessions, but she does just that. Tricia is definitely one of a kind and FOCUS is so lucky to have her!



Tricia Glosemeyer - Volunteer

Help FOCUS Have a Greater Impact!



Share FOCUS

Know a veteran who is struggling and could use some help getting back on track with their life? Share our website with them. After they fill out the online application, someone will reach out to them directly and discuss the program and the process.



Volunteer

It takes a lot of volunteers to make our program a success. Volunteers help us set up sessions, assist with food service and transportation during sessions, and assist with fundraisers throughout the year. Fill out a volunteer application on our website, and then watch your emails for volunteer opportunities.



Donations

We are 100% funded by private donations and do not accept any government financial assistance. Therefore, every single dollar counts! It costs us approximately \$5,000 per person to produce a FOCUS Session and it is offered at no cost to the participants. We cover airfare, room and board, all of their meals, and take care of any additional needs during the week they are with us. You can donate directly from our website, and if you would like to have a greater impact, please consider signing up for a monthly recurring donation. We are a 501c3 and your donations are 100% tax deductible.



Shop on Amazon

AmazonSmile is a simple way to support FOCUS Marines Foundation every time you shop! Go to smile.amazon.com and select **FOCUS Marines Foundation** as the organization to receive donations from your eligible purchases. Your selection will be remembered, and then every time you shop on Amazon, AmazonSmile will make a donation to FOCUS.



Support Mess Night 2023

Mess Night is our annual FMF-sponsored fundraiser and is a dinner/silent auction event. Mess Night 2023 is in the early planning stage and we are in need of Silent Auction Items, Sponsors, and Volunteers to help us the night of the event! If you want to donate an item, become a sponsor, or volunteer the night of this event, please contact Paula.hegger@focusmarines.org.



Stay Connected

FOCUS Website: www.focusmarines.org
(sign up to receive emails for program and event updates)

Mailing Address: FOCUS Marines Foundation
PO Box 476
Ballwin, MO 63022

Email: help@focusmarines.org

Phone: 314.243.4140

Save the Date!

O gaa'P ki j v'4245 - April 22, 2023
Sunset Country Club, Sunset Hills, MO



Upcoming Events

September 2022

1 - Buddy Check
17 - FOCUS Course Begins
24 - Walk 22 Fundraiser
27 - Re-FOCUS

October 2022

6 - Buddy Check
18 - Re-FOCUS

November 2022

1 - End of Year Campaign
3 - Buddy Check
15 - Re-FOCUS

December 2022

1 - Buddy Check
3 - FOCUS Course Begins
20 - Re-FOCUS

January 2023

5 - Buddy Check
17 - Re-FOCUS

February 2023

2 - Buddy Check
21 - Re-FOCUS
25 - FOCUS Course Begins

March 2023

2 - Buddy Check

April 2023

6 - Buddy Check
23 - Mess Night

May 2023

4 - Buddy Check
6 - FOCUS Course Begins

