



IN-FOCUS NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024 - 2025

Celebrating 2024

FOCUS Marines Foundation is proud to celebrate the 81 veterans who came through our FOCUS programs in 2024. They arrived as strangers and returned home as family, empowered with tools, lighter spirits, and the strength of a new support system. We celebrate these heroes, the hard work they put into themselves, and the new chapters that began for them this year. Success doesn't happen overnight though, and neither does a FOCUS Class! Which is why we also want to celebrate all the hard work that went into creating a successful year for FOCUS in 2024. The heart and effort poured into everything is overwhelmingly clear when you look at the following details:



- Four weeks preparing grounds and lodging.
- 247 beds made up & bedding and bath towels laundered for all staying onsite.
- Program supplies acquired with over 120 online orders, 28 trips to SAMS, four trips to Costco, 12 trips to Walmart, and 16 trips to the printer.
- Over 17,500 paper copies were printed and 194 Course Binders were assembled.
- Fishing Volunteers spent over 150 hours prepping for & cleaning up from fishing.

- Eight different groups and organizations donated meals.
- Food Service Volunteers spent over 740 hours prepping for and serving meals.
- 4,453 full meals were served along with a never-ending supply of snacks and drinks.
- Transportation Volunteers drove over 8,500 miles transporting people and supplies.
- Staff and Mentors spent over 100 hours, 125 phone calls, 600 emails, and 200 texts between FOCUS and program applicants prior to arrival.



- FOCUS booked 111 round-trip flights.
- Participants and Graduate Mentors drove over 10,000 miles to get to and from FOCUS.
- 132 hours of classroom instruction took place during FOCUS classes.
- 134 volunteers helped this year, many of whom worked every day of every session.
- 20 Re-FOCUS classes & 12 Buddy Check online meetings were held.

- 122 hours spent prepping, hosting, & following up on Re-FOCUS and Buddy Checks.
- 26,886 emails and 18,006 texts were sent out for Re-FOCUS and Buddy Checks.
- Re-FOCUS online classes had 569 attendees & Buddy Checks had 321 attendees.
- 75% of our participants this year were direct referrals from FOCUS Graduates.
- Over 2000 photos were taken and edited.
- More than 615 private donations were received making FOCUS no cost to attend.



From the volunteers and staff to the donors and supporters, each contribution has been vital in creating a ripple effect of healing and hope. As we close out 2024, we celebrate these efforts and look forward to another year of transforming lives, one week at a time.

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Supporting FOCUS Graduates

Kim Bradley, Nurse Coach and Resource Coordinator

The ongoing success of the FOCUS program means that each year, we welcome 80 to 100 new graduates into our community. We continue to support them through regular contact, Buddy Check Calls, and Re-FOCUS Classes. Now we are excited to offer an additional layer of support through a brand-new role within our organization. Kim Bradley, our new Nurse Coach and Resource Coordinator, is the extraordinary individual stepping into this role. She will assist in supporting our ever-growing graduate family by providing health coaching and facilitating connections to outside resources when needed, further empowering our graduates on their personal and health journeys.

Kim's background makes her uniquely qualified for this position. As a Marine spouse of over 26 years, she deeply understands the challenges military families face. With over two decades of experience as a registered nurse, much of her time has been spent as a visiting nurse with the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society and, most recently, with Semper Fi & Americas Fund, helping service members and veterans navigate medical and wellness challenges. A familiar face to FOCUS since 2012, Kim has regularly supported our sessions and referred clients to our program. She also just happens to be married to long time FOCUS Team Leader, Dan Bradley. Although this background is impressive, if you have met Kim, then you know that her real superpower is her heart. She brings unmatched dedication and warmth to every situation, and we are excited to see her use her passion in new ways to help our graduates thrive!



GRADUATE QUOTES

"I will never be able to express my gratitude for the opportunity to attend. I believe it saved my life and made me see that I've already had victories. I could have never opened up that way anywhere else."



"FOCUS has touched on so many areas that I wasn't even aware of. I am motivated, re-energized, and open to the possibilities that life has in store. I feel that I am living my life and that life is not being done to me. I feel like the person I know myself to be."



"This has been one of the greatest experiences I have encountered in my life. The training that I received here far exceeded my expectations. Meeting other people and hearing that I am not alone and that they have had similar issues has given me the strength to become better. I found the Lord and was reborn here and I want to do and be better in life."



"The amount put into each session is amazing and the infectious nature of this staff transfers all over the event. The location is peaceful and allows people to unplug to get tools to reset and engage to get a healthier lifestyle."



Volunteer Spotlight

GREAT SCOTT



Denny and Charlie Scott - Food Services Director

A man walks into a bar, orders 12 shots and starts drinking them as fast as he can. The bartender asks, “Why are you drinking so fast?” The man replied, “You’d drink fast, too, if you had what I have.” The bartender says, “What do you have?” The man replied, “Seventy-five cents”. Most people would just introduce themselves to a person they are just meeting, but not Charlie! He has a million of them, just like that! Charlie Scott loves to laugh and loves to make other people laugh.

Things haven’t always been fun for Charlie, though. He stood on the yellow footprints in 1968 and attended Boot Camp in San Diego. Not long after that, he was shipped to Vietnam as an 0311 Rifleman. The action he saw and experienced was beyond description as he was assigned to the I Corps which bordered the demilitarized zone. Assigned to a rifle platoon, he lived in extremely harsh conditions and fought like a true Grunt. Despite his protests, he was medevac-ed out of Vietnam because the cellulitis on his feet was so bad he could hardly walk. After three months in the Great Lakes Hospital, Charlie was discharged from the Marine Corps. That infection is something he continues to deal with 55 years later.

Charlie enrolled at St. Louis University on the GI Bill and, after his Freshman year, married his wife, Denny. She supported them as a teacher so Charlie could continue his education. That ended abruptly but joyfully when Denny got pregnant with their first son and, as a teacher, was required to leave her job. Charlie worked parking cars at a restaurant to keep them afloat and continued to finish his degree in Marketing. They went on to have two more boys and a daughter and life got real busy.

Charlie has never been afraid of hard work. He spent his career selling corporate printing jobs and ultimately became part owner of Quest Graphics. After raising his family, he volunteered his time at FOCUS Marines Foundation in the Transportation department, shuttling veterans back and forth from the airport. When FOCUS needed a Kitchen crew Chairman, Charlie stepped right into that job. Because of Charlie’s efforts and dynamic personality, he has been able to have almost all of the food for each FOCUS week donated by a large number of supporters. That’s 16 meals, snacks, and drinks for about 100 people each week, or roughly 1,600 meals for the week. It’s an overwhelming contribution to the FOCUS organization and his 0400 moments happen every day during the week when he makes his run to pick up donations. Every supporter gets a handwritten note of thanks from Charlie. Just as amazing, he donates any leftover food to three women’s shelters in the area who are always grateful to receive it. Charlie also serves as a member of the FOCUS Board of Directors.

Charlie’s pride and joys, his nine grandchildren, keep him busy as “Poppa” attends as many sporting events for them as he can. He loves goose and duck hunting, golf, friends, and especially ... family.

Charlie truly is a Great Scott.

Upcoming Events

January 2025

- 2 - Buddy Check - Online FOCUS Graduate Meeting
- 14 - Re-FOCUS - Online FOCUS Graduate Class
- 21 - Re-FOCUS - Online FOCUS Graduate Class

February 2025

- 2 - LiUna Cornhole Tourn - Outside Fundraiser
- 6 - Buddy Check - Online FOCUS Graduate Meeting
- 11 - Re-FOCUS - Online FOCUS Graduate Class
- 18 - Re-FOCUS - Online FOCUS Graduate Class

March 2025

- 1 - FOCUS Class Begins
- 11 - Buddy Check - Online FOCUS Graduate Meeting
- 13 - Re-FOCUS - Online FOCUS Graduate Class
- 29 - John G's Home Brew Contest - Outside Fundraiser

April 2025

- 3 - Buddy Check - Online FOCUS Graduate Meeting
- 8 - Re-FOCUS - Online FOCUS Graduate Class
- 12 - Mess Night Gala - FOCUS Annual Fundraiser
- 15 - Re-FOCUS - Online FOCUS Graduate Class

Please visit www.FOCUSMarines.org
for more details on events.

Save the date 

Join us for the Mess Night Gala to benefit the FOCUS Marines Foundation!

Mark your calendars for an evening of tradition, camaraderie, and fun, all in support of empowering veterans. Enjoy an open bar, hors d'oeuvres, a formal dinner, a silent auction, and inspiring stories from FOCUS program graduates. More details to come – we can't wait to celebrate with you on April 12, 2025!

If you would like to become a sponsor, please email holly@focusmarines.org





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