FOCUS is 40!

This year brings with it a huge milestone for FOCUS. In 2023, FOCUS celebrates 40 years of service to families of children with disabilities. What started in 1983 with two families has grown into a network of more than 4,500 families across Georgia. FOCUS was founded by parents looking to learn from each other, lean on each other, and celebrate their extraordinary children together. A lot has changed in the world since 1983, but the thing that hasn’t changed is that FOCUS is still serving children with disabilities and families with compassion, quality, and love.

The 40th anniversary is known as the ruby anniversary, and this reminds us of the ruby slippers in "The Wizard of Oz." As a parent of a child with disabilities who has been involved with FOCUS for the last eight years, I can truly say, "There is no place like FOCUS." FOCUS works hard to provide safe, appropriate programs for children, teens, and young adults with complex needs. We also make it possible for the entire family to participate and make special memories together. Our mission has enabled us to walk alongside thousands of families over the last 40 years, and I am looking forward to the next 40. Thank you for being part of this community and this journey with us.

With gratitude,

Frances McBrayer
Executive Director
FOCUS Memories

In celebration of 40 years of FOCUS, we asked families to share some of their favorite FOCUS memories. Here are a few that were shared.

This was our first FOCUS Camp and by far the best experience! No distractions just quality time spent together. Being disconnected from technology and everyday life gave us, as parents the opportunity to slow down and pour into our girls! They both had so many firsts! They never fished let alone catch one, rock wall climb, paddle boat, archery, just to name a few! Thank you focus for such a wonderful opportunity!
- The Lockhart Family

I'm beyond grateful for FOCUS! We have encountered, and experienced lifetime memories with your program. My son and I have enjoyed each and everyone of the events, that we have participated in. FOCUS thank you for allowing us to be a part of this journey, here's to many more.
- The Martinez Family
When our son was first diagnosed, we were lost, confused, and literally didn't even know where to start. FOCUS was our first phone call for help. I'll never forget then-Director Lucy Cusick's warmth and positivity when she answered the phone. She told me, "Bring that sweet baby here next Saturday for photos with Santa. We can't wait to meet you." In what was a sea of darkness at the time, Lucy was the much-needed beacon of light. We are forever thankful for the amazing support and guidance our friends at FOCUS have given us through the years in helping us to "make everyday life better."

- The Jeyaram Family

**Share your story with us!**
Click below to share your favorite FOCUS memory.

[FOCUS Memories]

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**FOCUS Programs**

**Equipment**

FOCUS fulfilled nineteen grants for medically necessary equipment not covered by private insurance and/or Medicaid in 2022 and has approved ten grants thus far in 2023. The next equipment grant cycle for 2023 ends July 15.

Our Equipment Loaned Library continues to be a valuable asset to FOCUS families. One of the most requested items is the Convaid foldable wheelchair. FOCUS currently has 68 Convaid wheelchairs out on loan!

Click below for more information about our Loaned Equipment Program and our Equipment Grants

[Equipment Programs]

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**Teens and Young Adults**
The Teen and Young Adult group keeps a very busy calendar! There is never a dull moment for them. In just the first quarter, they have had a dance class, restorative yoga, games with Mercer physical therapist students, tennis with Special Pops and a 70's themed dance with the Lovett School. Learn more about TYA programs!

Swim Team

We started the FAST Fins spring 2023 season with a splash! Sixty swimmers participating on our adapted swim team in six different locations this spring. Teams were held in Lawrenceville, Roswell, Johns Creek, Atlanta, Peachtree City, and Marietta.

Our FOCUS swimmers have worked extremely hard, and they ended their season with a fantastic swim meet on April 22nd.

Congratulations on a great season!

Spring Family Camp

FOCUS was one of the first organizations to experience the new Rutledge West campus at Camp Twin Lakes April 21-23. Thirty-seven families spent a relaxing weekend with us. Families had a great time rock climbing, playing at the accessible playground, visiting the camp farm, zip lining, and so much more. FOCUS has another Family Camp program scheduled at Camp Twin Lakes in August.

Camp Hollywood

We are looking forward to a fun-filled summer! Registration opened for our Camp Hollywood summer day camp in March, and there are just a few openings remaining. FOCUS is offering eight weeks of in-person camp throughout metro Atlanta, and campers can sign up for the week that is most convenient to them. Camp locations include Alpharetta,
Lawrenceville, McDonough, Peachtree City, Decatur/NE Atlanta, and Marietta.

See the dates and schedule here: Camp Hollywood 2023 and register through the Family Portal.

Interested in volunteering? Let us know here!

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Philanthropy News

2023 Gala Celebrating 40 Years of Service

"For the Love of Children," our dinner, dance, and auction was held on March 4, 2023. Proceeds from the gala fund FOCUS programs, including Camp Hollywood, Camp Infinity, Equipment, and so much more. This year we raised over $420,000! Thank you to all those who attended and gave so generously!

Save the Date for the 2024 "For the Love of Children" gala on February 24th!

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Luther & Susie Harrison Foundation Grant

We are honored and thrilled to announce that FOCUS is the recipient of a grant from the Luther & Susie Harrison Foundation. This grant will provide one million dollars to FOCUS over the course of five years! Funds have already allowed us to hire our new, full-time Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator to strengthen our network of volunteers and community connections and will support and expand core FOCUS programs, including grants for medically necessary equipment.
23rd Annual Golf Tournament

The 23rd Annual FOCUS Golf Classic was a success! More than 30 sponsors came out to support our work with children with disabilities and their families. The weather was beautiful, and everyone had a wonderful time. Special thanks to our event chairs Curt Smith, Przemek Szczepanik, and Daniel Dubowski for making this event a success.

See a list of our sponsors

Thanks to all those who have given to FOCUS!

2023 Donor list to date

Upcoming Events

**Camp Hollywood** Begins: June 5

**Family Camp at Camp Twin Lakes:** **August 11-13**  (registration for FOCUS families opening in June)

**Save The Date! Summerfest 2023 August 26** at Eagle Rock Conference Center