PROJECT FOCUS™

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Empowering Lives.
Transforming Futures.

projectfocususa.org

ANNUAL REPORT

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

This year was a big one for Project Focus, full of growth, partnership, and real momentum.

For more than a decade, we've been focused on creating pathways for individuals with developmental disabilities to learn, build independence, and fully participate in their community. This past year, that commitment took a meaningful step forward with the launch of Focus Day School and our Focus Workforce Readiness Programs. Adding a private elementary program for students in grades 3–6 with developmental disabilities, alongside workforce programming for individuals 18 and older, reflects our commitment to serving this population at every stage of life.

These initiatives reinforce our belief in meeting families earlier, surrounding students with support, and building a continuum of services that grows with them into adulthood. It strengthens our ability to walk alongside individuals and their families from childhood through independence within one connected Focus ecosystem.

Across all of our programs, we saw continued progress. Focus Academy remained a thriving tuition-free charter school. Focus Forward expanded opportunities for young adults to develop life skills, job readiness, and confidence in the community. At the same time, we began laying the groundwork for what comes next, the vision of our founders and the development of an integrated campus that brings education, workforce training, and long-term support together in one place. Partnerships like our collaboration with MOSI opened doors to hands-on learning and real-world workforce experiences, and events like the Tampa Glow Row helped deepen our connection to the broader community.

Just as important has been the growth of our leadership and governance. The formation of our first Advisory Council and Young Professionals Advisory Board brought new voices, expertise, and energy to our mission, strengthening the foundation for where we are headed.

What we're building at Project Focus is more than programs, it's a community of opportunity, support, and belonging. And we're just getting started.

Thank you for standing with us.
With gratitude,

Clayton Clemens

Clayton Clemens
Executive Director
Project Focus Foundation

OUR STORY

In 2012, a small group of parents of children with special needs were struggling to find schools that made their children feel valued, supported, and prepared for success. By partnering with academic and therapeutic professionals, the dream of Focus Academy became a reality in the heart of Temple Terrace, Florida.

What began as a flagship program, supported by a thoughtfully developed philosophical approach, has grown into the foundation that permeates all Focus programs and entities. As students advanced, so did the founders' commitment to supporting them, not only in the classroom, but throughout their transition into adulthood.

In 2018, Project Focus was established to strengthen, support, and expand both existing and future initiatives.

Today, that mission thrives on through:

- Focus Academy (Charter School)
- Focus Cafè
- Focus Forward (Adult Day Program)
- Focus Employment Training (Vocational Rehabilitation Program)
- Focus Day School (Private School)

Together, these programs form a comprehensive continuum of support serving students, adults, and our broader community with dedication, vision, and purpose.

Since 2013 the Focus programs have served hundreds of young people with developmental disabilities and their families across the Tampa Bay Region.

CORE VALUES

Dignity – Every individual is valued and respected

Inclusion – Building welcoming & supportive communities

Empowerment – Fostering independence and self-determination

Innovation – Embracing creative approaches to education and support

Community – Connecting individuals to each other and the broader Tampa Bay area

MISSION

We endeavor to improve the lives of students and young adults with disabilities by providing financial support for innovative and transformative programs that help individuals reach their greatest potential. We are dedicated to the principle that every individual is capable of making a meaningful and unique contribution to society.

VISION

We envision that through the resources of innovative programs and community support, persons with disabilities will be empowered to work toward a full and promising future in their education, employment, and life experiences.

Focus DAY SCHOOL

FOCUS DAY SCHOOL OPENS ITS DOORS

Building a Strong Foundation for Lifelong Success

In August 2025, Project Focus provided startup funding to launch Focus Day School (FDS), a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) currently serving students in grades 3–6 with developmental and learning disabilities.

FDS was created to support students who applied to Focus Academy but did not meet the charter school's eligibility requirements yet clearly needed additional academic support. Built on the proven Focus approach, the school expands grade levels each year to serve more students in need.

Focus Day School is an approved provider for Step Up For Students and delivers the same high standard of excellence as its flagship school.

FOCUS EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAM

With the generous financial support of Project Focus, the Vocational Rehabilitation Program was developed. The program was approved in 2024 and launched in 2025 with its first Work Readiness Training Program. Designed specifically for individuals with developmental and learning disabilities, the program equips students and young adults with essential workplace skills through structured training, personalized support, and hands-on learning.

Future expansion will include On-the-Job Training and Job Coaching, helping participants move confidently toward meaningful employment and long-term career success.

OUR PROGRAMS

Focus Academy™

Focus Academy is a tuition-free Florida public charter school serving grades 6-12 and a Transition Program for ages 18-22. We provide students diagnosed with cognitive and developmental challenges with a community that supports feelings of value, connection, and lifetime success. Our innovative and integrated teaching approach equips students with special needs in the Tampa Bay area with the necessary skills to live purposeful and enriched lives.
Est. 2013

Focus DAY SCHOOL

Focus Day School is a private, non-profit program dedicated to empowering young students with learning and/or developmental disabilities. Building on the success of the innovative Focus Academy Charter School, our school was founded with the understanding that early intervention and specialized education are key to helping students thrive.
Est. 2025

Focus Forward™

Focus Forward is a unique Adult Day Training Life Skills Development 3 provider. Our program is geared towards the needs of young adults with disabilities. As our current cohort of 22 to 30-year-olds ages up, we will expand to serve more ages.
Est. 2021

Focus Café

Focus Cafe is a working cafe within the Temple Terrace Recreation Center, which provides real-world employment training experiences for Focus Academy Transition Program students during the school year and for Focus Forward Clients during the summer months.
Est. 2019

Focus Employment Training Services

Focus Employment Vocational Rehabilitation is a service provider to assist young people with developmental disabilities in learning job readiness skills and increased independence.
Est. 2024

PROJECT FOCUS™

Project Focus is a non-profit organization established to support and provide programs and services through a unique learning community to assist young adults with disabilities.
Est. 2019

YEAR IN REVIEW

This past year marked a period of meaningful growth for Project Focus that was defined by expanded programs, new partnerships, and a major step forward in our long-term vision. Each milestone reflects the collective effort of students, families, educators, partners, and supporters working together to build a more inclusive future.

Aquatech Eco Consultants & Florida Aquarium Partnerships Jan 2025

First VR Graduate Cohort with Support from United Way – May 2025

Partners in Progress 2nd Annual Breakfast April 2025

Launch of Project Focus Advisory Council and Young Professional Advisory Board – Summer 2025

Tampa Glow Row June 2025

Focus Day School – August 2025

Focus Community Vison Released - July 2025

Moonlight and Martinis October 2025

MOSI Partnership September 2025

Holiday Card Feature December 2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & PARTNERS

Clay Clemens
Executive Director

Eric Isenbergh
Board President

George Radka
Board Member

Ildes Sotelo
Board Member

Stephen Cassell
Board Member

Chave Johnson
Board Member

Carole Dell
Board Member

Katie Molloy
Board Member

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Commissioner Josh Wostal
Hillsborough County

Councilman Luis Viera
City of Tampa

Leroy Moore
Sr. Vice President/COO, Tampa Housing Authority

John Nertney
Chief Financial Officer, Alliant Partners

School Board Member Patti Rendon
Hillsborough County School Board

Dr. Eric Eisenberg
Sr. Vice President, USF Community Partnerships

Eileen Pope
Senior Vice President of Community Development, Bank of America

Mayor Andy Ross
City of Temple Terrace

Christian Leon
Executive Director, Patel Family Foundation

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Jake Schaffer
Valley Bank

EJ Isenbergh
Menke Financial

Francesca Rusca
AccountAbility/ Taylor White

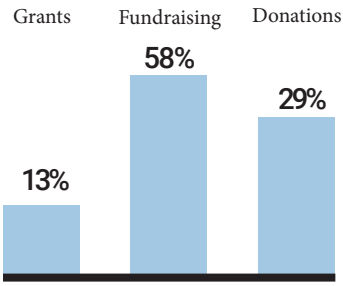
Justin Lulek
AdventHealth

Brielle Bell
Bush Ross, P.A.

Matthew Chernesky
United Way Suncoast

FINANCIAL REPORT - 2025

Income



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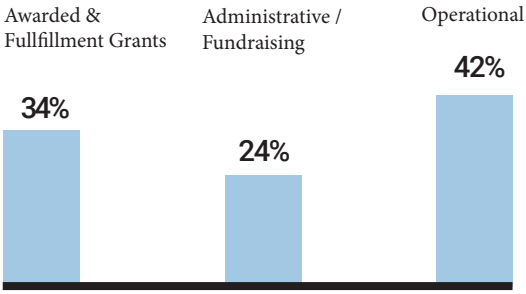

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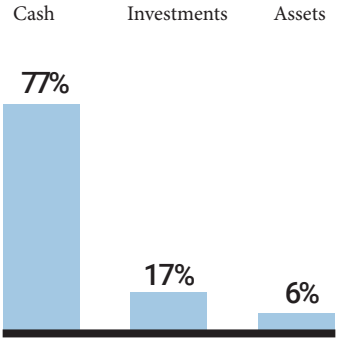
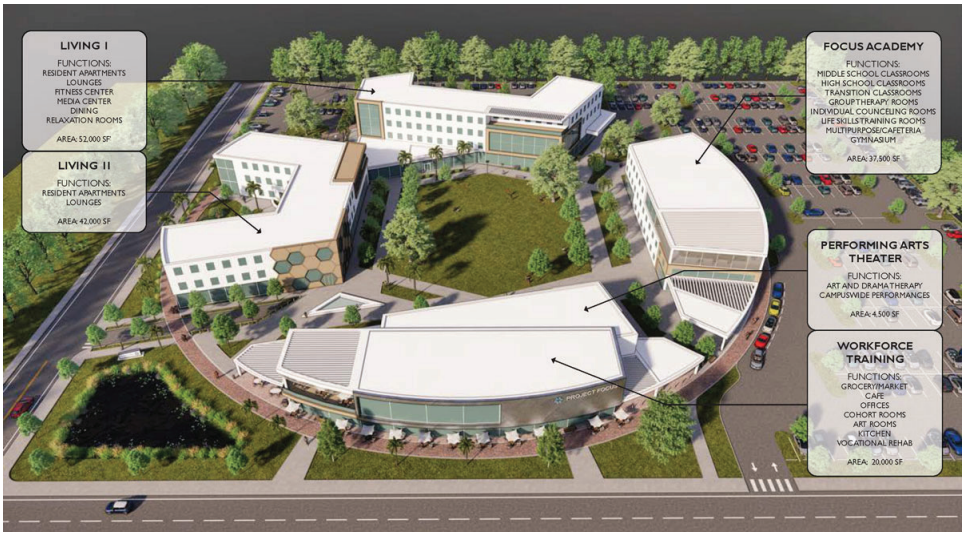


FOCUS FUTURE & LOOKING AHEAD



Building a Community Within the Community

Focus Future is our long-term vision for an integrated community that brings education, workforce training, green space, and supportive living together in one connected environment. Designed to foster independence while strengthening community ties, Focus will support individuals from adolescence through adulthood in a community built around dignity, opportunity, and inclusion.

Key Goals: 2026 Priorities

- Expand Focus Day School enrollment and add the next grade level
- Deepen partnerships, including expanded workforce training opportunities through MOSI and other community collaborators
- Advance Focus Future planning and development
- Grow capacity within Focus Forward to serve more young adults
- Begin planning for a capital campaign to support long-term campus development

Each goal represents a step toward a more inclusive future: one where individuals with developmental disabilities have access to education, employment, and community throughout their lives.

JOIN US IN SHAPING WHAT COMES NEXT

The vision of Focus Future is rooted in possibility - and it cannot be realized alone. It takes partners, advocates, and community leaders united by a shared belief that every individual deserves the opportunity to thrive.

Whether you are a donor, collaborator, or champion for inclusion, we invite you to walk alongside Project Focus. Together, we can break barriers, build pathways to opportunity, and create spaces where belonging is the standard - not the exception.

This year, we gather not just for events, but for impact:

- Annual Partners in Progress Breakfast - March 26, 2026
- Tampa Glow Row - April 25, 2026
- Annual Gala - October 9, 2026
- 2nd Annual Golf Tournament - Winter 2027

Each gathering is more than a date on the calendar - it is a step forward in building a future where every individual is seen, valued, and empowered.

The future is brighter when we build it together.

Focus Academy™

Focus DAY SCHOOL

Focus Forward™

Focus Café

Focus Employment Training Services

PROJECT FOCUS™

Empowering Lives. Transforming Futures.

On behalf of Project Focus and the Focus family of programs, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of our supporters over the past year. Your generosity, encouragement, and commitment make you an integral part of our continued success. We truly appreciate the role you play in helping us fulfill our mission and make a meaningful impact in the communities we serve.

CONTACT US

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