

Find Out if You Can Save \$30 on Your Internet Bill

FOCUS Broadband is a participating partner in the Affordable Connectivity Program, a federal program created to help families pay for internet. If certain qualifications are met, a family in need can qualify for \$30 off their current internet package, or they can subscribe to a package from FOCUS Broadband that would give them access to the internet at no cost! Any family that has a child enrolled in a Brunswick, Columbus, Robeson or Duplin public school automatically qualifies for this monthly discount. Other eligibility options are available, too.

To learn more about the Affordable Connectivity Program, or to find out if you meet the eligibility requirements, visit focusbroadband.com/acp or call 888-367-2862.



Securing Unused Cable Outlets

If you've recently cut the cord, secure your cable outlets to ensure there are no interruptions to your home internet service. RF noise is interference that can enter the cable wire through an open cable outlet. RF noise can corrupt the signal used for your internet modem or cable boxes at the location and can impact speeds and connectivity.

To secure unused outlets, terminating caps and barrels provided by FOCUS Broadband should be used on open coaxial wires to block noise from interfering with the internet signal. FOCUS Broadband will provide simple instructions along with the caps and barrels to help keep your cable modem functioning at its peak performance.

Caps and barrels are available at all FOCUS Broadband locations. For additional support, call FOCUS Broadband at 833-663-1241.

Farewell to a FOCUS Broadband Employee and Friend



Last month, FOCUS Broadband lost a wonderful employee and friend when Tonia Steed unexpectedly passed away. A twenty-year employee, Tonia joined the company in 2002 as a Customer Care Representative. She later moved into the role of Business Solutions Consultant and most recently served as a Business Customer Care Representative.

Over the years, Tonia was active in community outreach, helping out with local festivals, assisting the local chambers of commerce, and supporting our company through various charity events.

Tonia was quick with a laugh and never met a stranger, always offering kind words or a warm smile. She will be greatly missed.

Grant Applications Now Being Accepted

Now through February 28th, FOCUS Broadband is accepting applications for our 2023 Community and Education Grants program. Each grant category will receive \$40,000 in funds to award to educators and nonprofits in counties we serve and should be used to benefit residents in our service areas. Community grant funds will be awarded in the spring and education grant funds will be awarded in the fall.

To download a grant application, or for more information on eligibility and exclusions, visit focusbroadband.com/giving-back.

Education Grant Teaches About Financial Markets

Students at Brunswick Early College High School are learning about financial markets through a grant provided by FOCUS Broadband. With the grant, the school was able to purchase a financial ticker for the classroom. The students have mock stock competitions that accurately reflect real stock movements, using real-time stock market information incorporated in class assignments.

"We are hoping to create daily awareness and engagement between the students and their financial futures," commented Joel Elliott, ECHS Civics and Economics teacher. "We use a stock simulator to track and experiment with market movements. Having the ticker as a visual creates excitement and is a reminder of how their decision-making has consequences, both good and bad."



HAPPY Holidays!

All FOCUS broadband locations will be closed
Monday, December 26th & Monday, January 2nd
in observance of the holidays.

Wishing you the happiest of holidays and a fantastic new year!

How to Support Your Child Through Cyberbullying

Kids of every generation have had to endure bullying. Sadly, the internet has only exacerbated the problem. From a laptop to their smart phone, kids can take cyberbullying with them wherever their devices are. The good news for parents is that there are steps you can take to help your kids navigate and mitigate this as they grow up.



- Notice Changes in Mood or Demeanor
- Sit Down and Talk
- Take Screenshots and Keep Records
- Block and Report Offensive Conduct
- Be Supportive at Home and Online

The internet is also a source of great connectivity that can bring people together to learn and share, so don't forget its countless benefits, too. Be sure to follow FOCUS Broadband's social pages for tips and advice on navigating the internet safely and productively.