Last but not the least, SVSG would like to acknowledge the belief, the heart and the support from its established partners. Thank you for supporting SVSG, and thank you for being engaged with our work:

Mari's Bakery
Ola Fou Clinic
Saleufi Medical Clinic

Sponsored by:
The One Sky Giving Circle
CA, United States of America
SVSG acknowledges the support from the Little Angels Foundation of New Zealand towards welfare assistance for our vulnerable children.

Faafetai! Faafetai! Faafetai tele lava
Talofa

RE: ACKNOWLEDGING OF FINANCIAL DONATION

I bring you warm greetings from the children survivor residence at the Campus of Hope.

I trust this note finds you and the students of Sowilo well as we round up work for the year.

Thank you once again for supporting the work of SVSG. We are grateful of the donation of $500.00 we hereby acquit:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General shelter expenses 07/07—13/07</td>
<td>398.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash power for Campus 07/07—13/07</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>498.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance</strong></td>
<td><strong>(2.00)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is our prayer that we will continue to work in partnership to support the children survivors of violence and the abandoned children cared for at the Campus of Hope.

Yours sincerely

Siliniu Lina Chang
PRESIDENT

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Talofa Lava

It is a pleasure to once again share with you Samoa Victim Support Group’s (SVSG) work for the victims of crimes and the most vulnerable in our community.

August has been marked by a month of continued advocacy and awareness programs on issues of concern for our people; including family violence, sexual abuse, gender equality, discrimination and stigma.

There has been a stronger commitment to work in partnership with the churches, the schools, the local NGOs, the development partners and individual families, both here and abroad.

There has also been incidences of grave concern such as the cases of abandoned babies during the month. And as a child protection agency and a human rights activist, SVSG has been taking the necessary plan of actions to respond to the need for support.

Through it all, we continued to be appreciative of the support from our donor partners, families and friends without which, we will not be able to be of service to our people in need.

Last but not the least, I wish to acknowledge the funding support from the One Sky Giving Circle of California, United States of America which enabled SVSG to print a monthly copy of the Engage Edition for the information of our local community.

Until our next Engage Edition, God bless!

Soifua

Georgina Lui
Chair, SVSG Board
1. FAMILY VIOLENCE

A total of 45 new cases were lodged with SVSG during July; 33 cases with the Upolu Office and 12 cases lodged with the Tuasivi Office. July recorded a total of 56 cases, so there was reduction of 19% or 11 less cases lodged in August compared to July.

Of the total 45 new cases lodged, violence incidents accounted for 11 of these cases. However, the type of assistance our people sought highlighted the ripple effect of violence in our families. Support for maintenance, custody, counseling and even divorce, have increased in number, which all stem from violence hence the family breakdown.

Here is a look at the type of assistance sought by our people in August:

- 15 maintenance & custody;
- 11 domestic violence of which 6 were child abuse and 5 were violence against women;
- 10 counselling & mediation;
- 5 welfare assistance;
- 2 were with regards to village decision of banishment from the village;
- 2 sexual abuse;

In August, SVSG assisted 3 mothers and 1 child in applying to the Court for Interim Protection Orders (IPO) for themselves and their 10 children (1 – 18 years old). The drop in the number of IPOs applied in August corresponds with the reduction in domestic violence cases lodged during the month.

Most notable during August was the increase number of maintenance and custody for mothers whose husbands have left them upon their return home from the seasonal workers scheme. Most of the alleged perpetrators in these cases have left their wives and children for new relationships while on the seasonal worker scheme.

There is an increasing trend in this kind of support sought by young mothers which highlighted one of the concerns for such a scheme on family breakdown.

---

10 September 2019
Alex & Jill Stanley
c/o Giordano’s Pizzeria & Garden Restaurant
MOTOOTUA

Dear Alex & Jill

RE: GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION

We trust this note finds you and the family well. Praise the Lord for merciful love and grace.

As per SVSG’s usual accountability procedures, we hereby acquit the donation of ST1,000 we received in July to assist with SVSG and its work.

Time and time again you relayed to us your wish to utilize the funds where we see fit. And this time, we allocated your donation to cover the following expenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donation</th>
<th>$1,000.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New passports for 3 girls travelling to NZ for work experience program</td>
<td>650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General expenses (toiletries &amp; medical for young victim during birthing)</td>
<td>354.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenses | 1,004.00

Excess of expenses over income | (4.00)

We pray for God’s blessings upon you and the family always.

God bless!

Siliniu Lina Chang
PRESIDENT
For this August edition, we acquitted herein three of the donations received over the last months, namely: Pulega Assembly of God Palauli, Alex & Jill Stanley and Sowilo Community High School of Australia. Thank you for your generosity.

5 September 2019
Pulega
Assembly of God
PALAULI
Susuga e,

RE: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DONATION

As per SVSG’s usual accountability procedures, we hereby acquit the donation of ST1,630 received from the Pulega during SVSG’s awareness program in Savaii.

Your generosity had assisted SVSG with the various expenses to cater for the children’s needs while at the Campus of Hope, while at the same time, enabled us to cover utilities such as cash power and fuel for the children’s vehicle.

Donation $1,630.00
General expenses (toiletries etc) 02/06 – 08/06 426.80
Leilua expenses for London trip 300.00
Petrol for shelter vehicle 05/06 – 14/06 300.00
Cash power for Campus 05/06 – 14/06 200.00
General expenses (medicals) 16/06 – 22/06 421.46

Expenses 1,648.26
Excess of expenses over income (18.26)

May our Heavenly Father continue to bless the leaders of the Assembly of God church within the Pulega Palauli Savaii.

Yours sincerely

Siliniu Lina Chang
PRESIDENT

Summarized below are some of the highlighted cases reported to SVSG in August:

01.08.19: Domestic Violence
A 36 year old mother was found outside of SVSG’s office early morning. Upon inquiring if she was alright, she burst into tears. She was taken into one of the interview rooms for privacy where she was assisted with her case. For 12 years, the mother had endured violence at the hands of her husband. Her 4 children ages 6 – 15 years old have watched in silence while their mother, and the sole breadwinner of the family have been abused physically, verbally and mentally.

According to the mother, “I am tired of all these years of wearing a mask.” She has had enough. SVSG referred the mother to the Police once she was calmed, to officially lodged a complaint against her husband. The mother returned to SVSG to apply for an Interim Protection Order for her and her children; they have since moved to the mother’s family for their safety.

15.08.19: Welfare: Displaced Woman with Disabilities
The Police found a woman in his mid-50s sitting outside the Police station with her suitcase late afternoon and referred her to SVSG for assistance. Apparently, she was being chased out of their family due to a family dispute. It was difficult for the Case Officers to get information out of the woman as she is mentally disabled.

However, with the little bit of information that she gave us, and the assistance of the SVSG village representatives, we were able to locate her family.

It was close to 7.00pm when the woman’s brother came to pick her up. Watching the siblings embrace each other was enough to assure us that the displaced woman with disabilities was in good hands.

“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”
St. Francis of Assisi
Having a qualified counselor at the office really helps with daily cases requiring counseling support. In August, a 15 year old runaway twin reunited with their parents in a joint operation involving Samoa Victim Support Group and the Police.

The parents went to the Police for help and were referred to SVSG. This is because as a child safety organization, SVSG's child protection work is inclusive of all children. Discussions with the parents shed some light into how the twins regular visits to relatives in Upolu, attracted them to life in town and unfortunately ended up with the wrong crowd.

SVSG sought the Police's assistance to evacuate the twins from their hideout. They were brought to the SVSG office where their parents eagerly awaited them. One of our qualified counselors Fiu Leaupepe provided counseling support for both the parents and their sons in a family group session. Our reward was seeing one more family being reunited as a result of SVSG's and the Police's service to our people.

For immediate support, please call the 800-7874 Help Line. It is FREE and it is a 24-hour service

A special thank you to SVSG’s ongoing partners assisting with the children’s caring:
- To Toleafoa Elon Betham and the team at the Le Aute Gas for 2 x monthly gas refills for the House of Blessings;
- To Felise Sam Chong and the team at Origin Energy for the gas refill for the House of Hope and your prompt response for our call for assistance;
- To Greg & Maria Meredith for the children’s daily supplies of bread;
- To Epi Smith for the children’s bread supplies twice a week;
- To Tuato & Anna Ryan for the children’s Sunday toanai & bread supplies;
- To the LDS Office for coordinating the regular donations of food, the ongoing maintenance of the Campus and the volunteer support for the children’s rehabilitation programs;
- To Uncle Johnny for the children’s ice cream supply every Sundays;
- To Mark Tofilau of Sydney Australia for $300 per week donation towards the children’s food and allowance for the Security Guard at the Campus;
- To Maurice & Elanit Mitry of Australia for the monthly donation towards the Campus water rates;
- To Motuipuaa Dr. Aisoli Vaai of the Saleufi Medical Clinic, for the children’s free medical consultation;
- To Taulealeamau Dr. Titi Lamese of the Ola Fou Clinic, for the children’s free medical consultation; and
- To Zhenna Chan Mow-Fa’auiga of the Niu Pharmacy for the children’s free medication supplies;
- The Fatima Apostolate Fellowship of Mulivai Apia for hosting the children every Tuesday for Rosary and their evening meal; and
- To the churches, villages and individuals that donated food and miscellaneous supplies to assist with the children’s daily needs;

2. CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

8 out of 45 new cases lodged with SVSG in August directly affected children; age ranging from 6 – 17, with 4 female and 4 male. The children were:
- victim of insulting words (2)
- victim of child abuse (2)
- victims of sexual abuse (2)
- victims of broken families – troubled teens (2)

37/56 cases indirectly affected 77 children ages 2 – 18 years old (43 male and 34 female).
Tracy Ebsworth of New Zealand

A frequent visitor Tracy stopped by the SVSG Office in August to donate assorted children’s stationery, toys and clothes while she was in the country.

In addition, a donation of $180.00 was for the children at the Campus of Hope.

U.S.A Coast Guard

Christopher Jasnoch represented a team from the U.S. Coast Guard ship Cutter Walnut in presenting a donation of reading books, children’s toys and snorkeling equipment and variety of supplies for the children.

Thank you to all those who contributed in putting together this kind donation for the children.

Moera Tuilaepa of Radio New Zealand International

Ms. Tuilaepa was in the country for a meeting and she took time out to visit the SVSG Office and presented a donation of USD200.00 to assist with SVSG and its work.

Thank you so much Moera for your kind support.

Taito Family of America

Thank you Taito Family for your continuous support through financial assistance of ST2,460.00 for the Campus of Hope in August.

God Bless you and your family.

And while the country was hit by cases of abandoned babies during August, SVSG’s stepped up with its child protection role by launching a more vigorous campaign to remind our people that “All children are a gift from God and they have the right to life.”

So while as more and more children are saved through community awareness programs and through the advocacy role of SVSG’s village representatives, SVSG’s personnel at the Campus of Hope, who are tasked with the daily caring and security for the sheltered children, took it to the training room in August, with their Child Protection capacity building.

This is part and partial of SVSG’s continuous development program for its personnel, especially those working directly with the children.

The matrons, the caregivers at the hospital when the children are sick, the security guards at the gate, the chefs, the teachers at the School of Hope and the groundsmen, all sat down on this Saturday to go through the Child Protection Policy.

For the Child Protection Team and the personnel at the Campus of Hope, the efficiency and effectiveness of their work with the children is measured by their successful reintegration into society.

Join us on World Children’s Day—20 November 2019
Get ready for the world’s biggest celebration of children’s right
The Reintegration Program

This 9 year old has been abused since she was 5, when she moved from Savaii where she was raised by her grandmother, to stay with her mother and step father in rural Upolu.

For 4 years, the child has been at the receiving end of a domestic violence relationship between the couple. When the mother is mad at her husband, she beats up her child and similarly when the husband gets mad at the girl’s mother.

It was while SVSG was in the village for the women’s economic empowerment project that the child ran towards the office car while on its way back to Apia. She held on to the moving car and cried out to the staff to take her with them.

She was brought to the office the same day and has been in the shelter care since then. SVSG applied for an Interim Protection Order against both parents and was granted. The step-father was referred to the SVSG Men’s Advocacy Program.

In September 2018, the Court ordered a Family Group Conference including the parents, the grandparents (from Savaii), the Police, the Probation, SVSG and the child. This was the start of SVSG’s work on the child’s reintegration. The child wished to return home to her grandparents in Savaii.

Pre-Reintegration Support

Earlier this year, SVSG visited the grandparents in Savaii as part of its assessment work for the child’s reintegration. The Police and the Probation Officer from Savaii accompanied SVSG to the family for safety reasons. This is because despite the abuse taking place in Upolu, this particular village in Savaii is very strict on its by-laws against domestic violence and child abuse.

FINANCIAL & IN KIND DONATION

The extent of SVSG’s support services for our community in need attest to the genuine and durable partnerships we have established. As such, it is a normal process that we acknowledge all the donations received from our partners and network of supporters.

For August, SVSG acknowledges with gratitude and appreciation the kindness of the following donors:

Financial Donors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donation for:</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peace Chapel Christian Fellowship</td>
<td>Court Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solosolo Catholic Youth</td>
<td>Campus of Hope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assembly of God, Maota</td>
<td>Campus of Hope</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Kind Donors

- Margaret Bartley – off-cut materials for the children’s sewing
- Emily Curry – off cut materials for the children’s sewing
- Pak Auto of Vaigaga – 1 bag rice, 1 carton of tinned fish, 1 large ctn. oil
- Jo Mason of Brisbane Australia – miscellaneous donation for the children
- Diana Williamson of New Zealand – clothes conation for the children

Office of the New Zealand High Commission, Apia

Kalameli Ah Mu and Mary Hughes of the New Zealand High Commission office dropped off alaga povi to assist with the children’s meals.

Thank you H E Dr. Trevor Matheson, the NZ High Commissioner and your staff for helping us with the children’s daily caring.
And in the spirit of collective responsibility, leaders from the 6-NGO partners joined the call to end violence, discrimination and stigma associated with violence.

Representing SVSG was the Chair of the Board, Mrs. Georgina Lui who promoted SVSG’s message to ‘Speak Out’ because if others can, you can too.

Through the strengthening of this alliance with NGO partners, we are much louder in raising awareness against Violence, Discrimination and Stigma towards the most vulnerable amongst us.

Thank you Alex Su’a, President of the Samoa Fa’afafine Association, Vaito’a Toelupe and the beautiful contestants for coordinating such a successful awareness campaign in August.

When the team visited the grandmother who lives further inland of the village, she referred the team to the village center where her brother lives. The grandmother wanted the child to stay with her granduncle (grandmother’s brother) who is a high chief of the family for her protection. However, when the team met the high chief, he expressed his concern: “what if something happens to Elva’s reintegration and he will be charged?” The family was scheduled to pick up Elva at the end of January 2019.

The family never came and the child returned to the shelter very disappointed. She vowed that she will rather take the abuse, than not being wanted.

At the same time, the child’s mother has become part of SVSG’s Nofotane Program for unemployed women survivors of violence. She has been doing very well, selling printed handbags to replace the plastic bags banned by the government earlier in the year.

She left the abusive husband and lives with relatives close to town. She now works fulltime at a local hotel. She was ready to have her daughter back home with her, away from the abusive step-father and the disappointing extended family in Savaii. The child has been successfully reintegrated; she now lives with her mother and attending a primary school opposite their house.

2.1 Campus of Hope

The Campus provided a safe haven for 90 children in August [7 babies ages 4 months – 2 years (4 girls & 3 boys); 7 boys ages 3 – 12 years old and 76 girls ages 3 – 19 years old]. With this many children to look after, there is a general feeling of unity amongst the children as the older ones look out for the younger ones.

And when additional children are admitted for the first time, they are immediately taken in under the guidance of the older girls.
There were two new admissions to the shelter facility in August; both are victims of sexual abuse, age 12 and 14.

One survivor of child abuse was successfully reintegrated to the community following her court case and pre-reintegration support by the Child Protection Team.

The highlight for the Campus in August was when visiting parents sought the children’s forgiveness for failing them.

"On behalf of us as parents, we ask for your forgiveness as our children, as God's gift to our families, to our homes. For we have not lived up to God's purpose in our lives, to love and to care for you. And because you are here, we are all in this together." This was from a Fijian Prayer Warrior who was part of the Deborah Ministries International visitors to the Campus.

The appeal highlighted an important shift away from the silent acceptance of gender based violence; which has been apparent in Samoa and the Pacific region in the past; towards a more responsible community taking ownership of its actions towards the children.

The Deborah Ministries visited the children of Hope as prayer warriors, yet, the children’s ministering left them in awe of God’s love as seen from the smiles on the children’s faces.

It was as if the roles were reversed and the children were encouraging the adults to be strong, and in turn, the adults asked for the children’s forgiveness.

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**Clean Water & Sanitation Project**

The assessment of families who have requested welfare assistance with SVSG, specifically for clean water, continued in August.

Working in partnership with the ANZ Bank (Samoa) Limited, the youth members visited families who live inland of Satapuala as part of the assessment process.

Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) calls for clean water and sanitation for all people. And the SVSG Junior is contributing to the achievement of this goal by working with the underprivileged members of our community who are not accessing this necessity.

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**National Campaign to End Violence, Discrimination & Stigma**

As partners, SVSG joined the Samoa Fa'afafine Association and 6 other NGO partners in August to front up a combined National Campaign to End Violence, Discrimination & Stigma.

The Campaign was a lead up to a finale, the Annual Miss Fa’afafine Pageant which included pre-pageant activities such as speech competition by the contestants and multimedia awareness.

The SVSG Junior performed the skit as part of the Opening Prayer, portraying a battered woman being dragged and beaten by her husband in-front of her children, grandmother, family chief and church minister; highlighting the culture of silence and pride that form part of the social norm surrounding violence.
6. SVSG JUNIORS

They are vibrant and they have been busy during August; implementing and following up on their set community projects for the year; while at the same time, advocated for a more inclusive approach to end violence, discrimination and stigma together with its NGO partners in the community.

Here is a look at SVSG’s youth sub-group’s work in August:

Prom Night & Cultural Day at the Campus

The men and boys under the various support programs run by Samoa Victim Support Group are walking the talk, that engaging men and boys to end violence against women and girls is possible. And it starts with us. Leading the changes are none other than the SVSG Junior members who have represented SVSG in the 6-nation project with Spain, India, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, Netherlands and Samoa titled: “Breaking the Cycle: Men and Boys Engage to End Violence Against Women.”

The Group started by engaging the children in the conversation through an informal fun activity, a Prom Night.

Held at the Children’s Hall on Campus, everyone had a jolly good time in a very positive and fun environment.

The next day saw the young men teaching the children the basics on food preparation.

The roles might have reversed as the matrons got to rest while the young men cooked for the children, but the important message in which the advocates of the Program wanted to promote is that gender role stereotype is a social norm that can be changed.

Change Making Project

The 2018 Finalist for the International Children’s Peace Prize Award by the Kids Right Foundation and the 2019 Winner of the Commonwealth Secretary General’s Innovation for Sustainable Development Award, Ms. Leilua Lino continued with her change making projects in August.

With funding support from the Kids Right Foundation, Leilua, as a Changemaker is able to carry out a mentorship program for the girl survivors of sexual abuse within the age 8 – 10 residing at the Campus of Hope in collaboration with the SVSG Junior. The project aims at influencing a positive mentality amongst the girl survivors towards their rehabilitation programs.

At the same time, Leilua continues with her advocacy role as an Ambassador for Sexual Abuse children, running awareness workshops in primary schools around the country, encouraging the children to speak out and seek assistance; challenging the children that if she can speak out, so can they.

In August, Leilua received ST6,103.14 from the Commonwealth Secretariat as the prize money for the Innovation for Sustainable Development Award 2019.
Organic Training

Eleven children residence of the Campus of Hope completed 8-weeks of organic farming training courtesy of the Samoa Culture Centre Program at Falelauniu. The Program promotes organic farming as a livelihood skill, as a healthy lifestyle and as a form of climate change mitigation and adaptation. However, for the 11 participants from the Campus, the program was much more than that as its part of their healing process from the crisis situations affecting their young lives.

Despite the training being carried out at the Samoa Culture Centre, the children of hope practiced their skills at their own vegetable plot on Campus. They have learnt the importance of properly preparing and caring for the soil in order for the plants to grow well. There were both the practical and the theoretical aspects to the training.

For SVSG, the process of nurturing, of caring and of seeing a plant grow to its harvest stage is similar to the rehabilitation process undertaken by these children survivors of gender based violence while on Campus.

Extension Kitchen Facility

The Bank of the South Pacific has done it again. In August, the Bank of the South Pacific General Manager Taitu’uga Maryann Lameko-Vaai handed over an extension to the kitchen facility project to the Chair of the SVSG Board, Georgina Lui. The Management Team from the B.S.P accompanied the the General Manager to witness this event.

The project included putting a roof over the rear side of the building which provides the much needed shelter for the extended kitchen area and building cupboards for the children's cutleries. With the unusual rain days lately, the project is very welcoming. The project cost ST10,000. The Marketing & Sales Team donated food and other supplies which were also presented during the project hand-over. Thank you Taitu’uga Maryann Lameko-Vaai and your wonderful team at B.S.P for providing the funds for this project.

5. THE NOFOTANE WOMEN

From the natural resources available in the environment, the nofotane women are advancing gender equality in the homes as they become breadwinners through the creative products they are producing and selling every day.

They do not necessarily have to leave home for work as their workplace is in the home; where they are producers of authentic work of art, while tending to the children and family in their roles as mothers.

These two self-employed nofotane women are from the village of Falealupo, at the northern side of Savaii, yet, they earn an income every week from selling a variety of handicrafts at the Nofotane Space inside the SVSG main office in Apia.

Visitors and donors such as Dr. Van Hohaus here from the University of Manchester UK, stopped by to donate some books for SVSG in August, and bought some souvenirs from the Nofotane Space.

The economic empowerment of women is therefore a conduit towards advancing gender equality in any community. With Christmas around the corner, the most popular product is the small plain or colourful fans for conferences, wedding give away, or family reunion souvenirs.

Please support the nofotane women by visiting the Nofotane Space located inside the SVSG main office in Apia, or call us on 25392, email: svsginsamoa@gmail.com if you wish to place an order.
Even the women joined the conversation.

Through these open discussions, the SVSG Juniors are able to gather different views from the community on how to effectively engage men and boys to end violence against women.

It is all about ensuring that our families’ well-being and safety are maintained and/or improved.

4. SVSG VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES

As a token of our appreciation, SVSG visited one of the oldest members of the SVSG Village Representatives around Upolu and Savaii in August, to see how they were doing.

This is because despite their old age, these are the faces behind the support that SVSG provides to our people in need who contacted us through the Help Line.

Some of the elderly SVSG Village Representatives visited include Veta Fiu of Safotu and Fouvale Moafanue of Faletagaloa Safune, both from the big island of Savaii.

The SVSG village representatives remain the backbone of SVSG’s work with the community due to their volunteerism spirit and a positive mentality.

While some have been called to rest, many more are coming on board to provide this on the ground presence by SVSG in our village communities.

Fa’afetai! Fa’afetai! Fa’afetai le tautua ia te outou o tupu ma tamali o le atunu’u i o outou tofiga faaSui Auai a le To’omaga mo e Puapuagatia.

LDS Leaders Visited

During the Father’s Day holiday, some of the leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints paid a visit to the children at the Campus to remind them that they are behind them all the way.

One of the General Authority Seventy namely Elder K. Brett Nattress was accompanied by Elder Faalogo during the visit to see for themselves the children benefiting from the LDS Church’s welfare assistance.

A Homecoming Visit

It was a homecoming visit for Ms. Anastasia when she reunited with her brothers and sisters at the Campus in August.

Accompanied by her parents Pati and Anneke, Anastasia has come a long way from an abandoned child with severe epilepsy who was under the care of SVSG since 2012, before she captured the heart of Anneke while volunteering for SVSG.

Anastasia’s story highlighted the vast opportunities available outside of Samoa for children with disabilities.

We are glad that we were able to support Anastasia to a strong grown child she has become to her proud parents Pati and Anneke.

“Sometimes real superheroes live in the hearts of small children fighting big battles.”

Anonymous
Manu Samoa at the Campus

As per its normal routine when they are in the country, the Manu Samoa team visited the children at the Campus before departing for its World Cup preparation in Japan. The Team Manager Vaaelua Aloi Alesana encouraged the children to be strong and never give up. Thank you boys for encouraging the children through your visit. Thank you also for the donation of rugby balls presented for the children and ST265.00

LDS Lufilufi Primary

August saw Bishop Eti Tautasi, children and their parents from the LDS Church Lufilufi Primary visiting the Campus to fellowship with the children of hope.

Thank you so much Bishop Eti Tautasi and the LDS Lufilufi Primary for the visit and the donation of food supplies presented for the children.

Campus Contributed to the 2 Million Tree Planting Campaign

The children played their part in reaching the 2 Million targeted for the Tree planting Campaign by the Government in August.

While the initiative is primarily to restore Samoa’s forests and contribute to the world’s efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, the tree planting event also encouraged the children about new beginnings and a new life awaiting them once they are fully recovered and reintegrated back to the community.

Thank you MNRE for ensuring that the children of hope can contribute to this national campaign to address the climate crisis situation experienced worldwide.

Some of these older vendors are now breadwinners for their families through the products they are now selling, not on the streets, but through orders placed by the community with the SVSG Office.

Thank you to the US Ambassador Hon. Scott Brown, the US Embassy Apia Chargé d’Affaires Antone Gruebel and the staff for supporting SVSG’s work with child vendors. We look forward to continuing this partnership as there are more children on the streets who need our support.

3. ADVOCACY PROGRAMS FOR OFFENDERS OF VIOLENCE

Behavioural and mentality changes are the rewards of SVSG’s work with offenders of violence referred from the Family and Youth Courts.

The success of the program in reuniting families and in influencing positive changes in families makes this self-funded program by SVSG all the more worth-while.

Even those referred from the Courts to serve their community hours with SVSG are assisted with counselling and livelihood skill support.

In August, the SVSG Junior pilot its ‘Men & Boys Engage’ program with the participants to the Advocacy Program.

Here, we saw the young and the old have started the conversation on engaging men and boys to end violence against women. What better forum to be engaged first than the men offenders of violence referred from the Family Court to SVSG’s anger management program. Emotions were running wild as the men took up the onus of the responsibility to continue the conversation in their homes. We’re not only changing behaviour, but also social norms.
And in preparation for their reintegration following their court cases, 85% of these children have reported fitting in very well into the mainstream education. For some of them, they have excelled in their classes thanks to their continuing education at the School of Hope.

In August, Dr Van Hohaus, a lecturer in Linguistics at the University of Manchester UK, stopped by at the SVSG office to donate children's books for the School of Hope. The books were translated to Samoan by some of the students Dr Hohaus worked with in Christchurch NZ. Thank you so much Dr Hohaus for your contribution towards the continuous education of the children while at the Campus.

If you would like to be a part of the difference we are making in the lives of these very special children, please give us a call on telephone 25392, email svsginsamoa@gmail.com for further information or complete a ‘Buddy Application’ on our website.

2.3 Child Vendors – The Hot Soup Skill Building Training

As the financial assistance from the US Embassy Apia to support a 12-months project for the child vendors at the Hot Soup Skill Building Training officially came to an end in August, we are so proud of the children’s progress thus far.

The 20 children now placed back into the mainstream education continued to be enthusiastic about being educated.

At the Campus, the older child vendors are transforming scrap and raw materials found around the Campus into creative work of art.

Support from Perpignan France

Tevita and Rose Mailau were the Good Samaritans behind the successful fundraising event that was held at Perpignan France in August. The beneficiaries of the fundraising event are none other than the children survivors of violence cared for at the Campus of Hope.

Here is a non-governmental organization in the Pacific, yet, we have some of rugby greats in the likes of Jerome Kaino, Sekope Kepu, Fereti Tuilagi, Joe Tekori, Isaia Toeava, Filo Paulo to name a few, who came together to support a fundraising event organized by Tevita & Rose Mailau for SVSG.

And the fundraising was a success, raising EUR2000 / ST5,561.74 received into SVSG’s Account in August.

Some of the rugby greats playing professional in the northern hemisphere donated rugby jerseys which were auctioned off during the fundraising event.

Thank you so much Tevita & Rose Mailau for showing us that you care.

You have gathered families and friends from the Pacific and together, you reminded us that, we are one family; with love from Perpignan France.
Dr. Paniani Patu & Family of Sydney Australia

Strong supporters of SVSG and Sydney-based GP, Seugaitumua Dr. Paniani Patu, his wife Minerva and children visited the Campus in August while in the country.

It was an opportunity for the family to entertain the children and get updated on the work they have been supporting for years.

Thank you so much Dr. Paniani and Minerva for being strong supporters of our work all the way from Sydney.

Thank you also for the huge donation of supplies to assist with the children’s daily needs plus monetary donation of ST1,311.14.

Youth With A Mission (YWAM)

Pastor Peter & Shelly Christianson were part of the Youth With A Mission Family DTS team that helped out at the Campus of Hope during August.

Travelled all the way from America, the 3 families in this Discipleship Training School (DTS) team divided themselves to have the ladies assisted the teachers at the School of Hope and while the men worked with the young boys on Campus.

Thank you Pastor Peter & Shelly Christianson and the team for including the children of hope in your disciplining program while in Samoa. Thank you also for the donation of watches for the children including miscellaneous stationery and food supplies. God bless!

Pacific Forum Line Directors, NZ

Pacific Forum Line Directors from New Zealand attending their Board Meeting here in Samoa took time out to visit our Campus of Hope and to learn more about our work.

It was a hands-on visit with the directors walking through the school, the nursery and the whole compound to give them a better understanding of how best they can work in partnership with SVSG to support the children of hope.

2.2 School of Hope

All of the 82 residence at the Campus of Hope in August attended the School of Hope, with the exception of the 7 babies cared for at the House of Blessing nursery.

The school’s normal classes are from 8.30am to 2.30am with after-hours tutorials for English and Maths coordinated by the committed SVSG volunteers in the working community.

It is an inclusive school for children with disabilities who showed as much enthusiasm towards learning as the rest of the children.

There are also older children who have never been to school before who comfortably sat with the pre-schoolers during classes.

The School of Hope therefore provided that safe space where the young and the old, the pregnant young mothers and the children with disabilities are free to learn without being discriminated.