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:
SVSG acknowledges the support from the Little Angels Foundation of New Zealand towards welfare assistance for our vulnerable children.

Faafetai! Faafetai! Faafetai tele lava

THE VOICES OF SVSG’s SUPPORTERS:

Alofa Connect
February 18

Alofa Connections Inc was birthed from Svsg Sydney who in turn came about from SVSG Samoa. Lina Chang is the woman pictured in the aqua top and she is the President and founder of the only movement in Samoa that has protected, advocated for and housed child victims of sexual, psychological and physical abuse. The other 3 women are the Founders of our grassroots, volunteer organisation here in Sydney known as Alofa Connections.

Lina is our friend and mentor and provides our Leaders with up to date guidance, information and advice on many of the social issues that impact the South Pacific and in particular Samoa. Many of the issues that are dealt with here within our families are generational and many who migrate aren’t aware that we are fortunate to have services and supports offered here in Australia so that the damaging cycle of abuse and so forth can be broken; in saying this at the forefront of importance is that our families issues must be met with cultural sensitivity and up to date awareness for effective change to occur and this is where our time spent with Lina plays it’s part.

Lina is at the forefront of the child protection movement in Samoa and is requested to travel the world to share her experiences and expertise; a one time Samoan Police Officer with a wealth of knowledge, intelligence and on the ground experience our Alofa Connect team are privileged to have the opportunity to sit, talk and learn from Lina whenever our paths cross.

Lina; from your friends and colleagues at Alofa Connections Inc we thank you for your continued efforts for our Children in Samoa and we thank you for being of representation for the entire Pacific.

Thank you

#StrongerTogether #VoiceForTheVoiceless #Advocates# #MakingADifference#ChildrenMatter #SVSG #AlofaConnectionsInc
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;
- To Tuato & Anna Ryan for the children’s Sunday toanai & bread supplies;
- To Elder Meliula Fata, and 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 the churches, villages and individuals that donated food and miscellaneous supplies to assist with the children’s daily needs;
- 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;
- Maurice & Elanit Mitry of Australia for the monthly donation towards the Campus water rates;
- Carolyn Rogers of Abu Dhabi for the monthly donation towards the salary of the Head Matron at the Campus;

“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

- 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 -

Talofa Lava

It is my pleasure once again to present a highlight of Samoa Victim Support Group’s work for February through the Engage.

Two months into SVSG’s work for 2019, we constantly see the ugly colors of violence and the extent of its impact either directly or indirectly on members of the community. While some progress has been made on the community’s ability to speak out and sought assistance, others continued to tolerate violence as the norm, rather than a crime.

During February, SVSG was reminded once again that violence, in all its aspects and forms, can kill, and will result in the loss of lives if the proper support systems are not in place. This is where the role of our families is vital.

But as the echo of an 18 year old victim’s cry resounded throughout the premises of the Campus of Hope. “Let what happened to me, ends with me ………..” SVSG is challenged to continue being a strong advocate for violence free families and communities.

The Sisters of Hope, through the ‘Positive Movement’, has assured us that if they can rise up and overcome the challenges of their pasts, others can too.

It is all about changing mindsets; about staying positive because at SVSG, we believe that there is no problem too big, or too small that cannot be resolved.

As Family, we each have a part to play.

God bless!

Georgina Lui
Chair, SVSG Board

“For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, “Fear not, I am the one who helps you.”” - Isaiah 41:13 -
1. FAMILY VIOLENCE

SVSG’s casework database recorded a 65% increase in cases lodged in February totaling 43, compared to 26 cases recorded for January. There were 30 cases lodged with the SVSG Office in Apia and 13 with the SVSG Office at Tuasivi. Majority of the cases were for welfare and general assistance.

For the most common offences of sexual and domestic violence, there has been a noted reduction in numbers for February compared to January:

There were no cases of sexual offending reported during February compared to 2 cases involving siblings reported in January.

SVSG applied for 4 Interim Protection Orders in February for the protection of 4 mothers and 10 children. This is a reduction from the 7 Interim Protection Orders SVSG applied for in January, protecting 6 mothers and 62 children.

Despite the reduction in gender based violence cases reported to SVSG in February as highlighted by the numbers, the horrific nature of at least one case of child abuse or an assault on a teenager always gets to the heart; because unlike numbers, people care and wanted to make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable.

Highlighted below are some of these cases of child abuse and/or assault lodged with SVSG in February:

15.02.19: Assaulting a Pregnant Teen

Two days after a village council for a village in the south-western side of Upolu publicly announced a monetary fine for any man in the village that abuses his wife or children, a grandfather from the same village called SVSG via the Help Line, reporting his 18 year old pregnant granddaughter badly assaulted by her father, who is also a high chief of the village.

SVSG contacted the Police Outpost closest to the village for assistance, and the perpetrator was taken in for questioning while the granddaughter was referred to the Campus of Hope for her safety.

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

**Financial:**

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<tr>
<th>Donors</th>
<th>Donation for:</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>James &amp; Debra Maley</td>
<td>Campus of Hope</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark &amp; Samantha Tofilau</td>
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<td>SVSG Office</td>
<td>250.00 [Dec 2018]</td>
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<td>Pacific Ezy Money Transfer</td>
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<td>250.00 [Jan 2019]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peace Chapel Christian Fellowship</td>
<td>Court Office</td>
<td>300.00</td>
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**In Kind:**

- Pastor Lui Seve of the AOG Falelauniu - 2 bags of breadfruit, 30 coconut
- Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveu, SVSG Patron – 20 bunches of bananas
- Palepa & Family – 3 bags of taro
- Rose Tupuola - 1 bag clothes
- CCK Trading – 3 bags of clothes
- Sam & Esther of Auckland - baby supplies (wipes, Golden Farley, diapers)
- Nowotta – 2 bags of clothes
- Elisapeta & son – 2 bags of bongo
- Hanna Fepuleai – 1 bag of books
- LDS Charity – food and miscellaneous toiletry supplies
- Yvette Cabral & Jo Mikarna of Queensland Australia – children’s toys
- LDS Apia Samoa Stake – food & miscellaneous toiletry supplies Sue Rasmussen – baby food supplies
- Pastor Faranisisi & Toavale of AOG Fasitoo-uta – 1 bag clothes, shoes
- Aiga Group – Malua Theological College – food supplies
- Fuimaono & Kisa Rimoni – 10 bunches of banana/1 box ripe bananas
Meeting with Clinical Psychologist
The SVSG President met with Dr. Julia Ioane, a Samoan clinical psychologist from NZ who will be working in Samoa to assist in providing clinical oversight in the Samoan court system.

Dr. Julia’s work includes looking at existing therapeutic interventions with opportunities to provide staff training and monitoring.

Given the work by SVSG not only for the victims but also for the offenders of violence, the SVSG President briefed Dr. Julia on SVSG’s interventions in the community, which hopefully, will assist her in gaining an understanding on the reality of what is needed.

Taito Family Ministries
Fia Tasi Taito is a woman on a Mission.

Through music, specifically gospel music, Fia and her family have been helping members of their community in Seattle, America through the Taito Family Ministries.

While she was in Samoa in January to touch base with SVSG on its needs list, Fia continues to encompass the community in Seattle through concerts to ensure that she would be able to support SVSG any way she can.

Thank you so much Fia for including SVSG as part of your Mission. We pray for God’s favour always in your community outreach programs, and look forward to seeing you home soon.

19.02.19: Child Abuse Causing Injury
An informer called the Help Line early morning, alerting SVSG of the urgent need for assistance. A 12 year old boy who was badly beaten on the head by his aunty, had sought refuge with the neighbors.

SVSG attended to the case immediately and found the victim covered in blood. At first, members of SVSG’s Child Protection Team thought they were too late, and with the distance from the neighbors house to hospital, it was a race against time to save the child.

He was admitted at the Emergency Unit where he was attended to with the proper medication; the Police arrived and made arrangements for when the victim would be ready for an official statement.

Our brave child is now recovering well; had been a new residence at the Campus of Hope while the Police is carrying out its investigation against the child’s aunty.

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

“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

- 1 Peter 4: 10 -
2. CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

The highlighted cases of assault and child abuse causing injury reported to SVSG in February, reminded us of our collective responsibility as a community, towards child protection.

The low status of children in Samoa makes them vulnerable to violence and exploitation. An uneducated child from a broken family and living with extended relatives is at a high risk of experiencing violence throughout his/her childhood and will eventually end up as an abuser. This trend is noticeable at SVSG where we help not only the victims, but the offenders of violence referred from the Family and Youth Courts.

Over the years, SVSG in its child protection role often handled child abuse cases where discipline had caused injury, yet still considered an acceptable social norm. Look at the case of the 12 year old who was covered in blood and in critical condition, yet the guardians maintained that it was not abuse but rather discipline.

Funding support of ST28,951.00 received from the UNICEF Pacific in February for Quarter 1 of the Program Co-operation Agreement is helping SVSG continue to roll out community and educational awareness programs on positive discipline and on appropriate behaviour, aimed at changing attitudes which is central to changing behaviour towards ending violence against children.

There were 2 new admissions into the Campus of Hope shelter facility in February with one being successfully reintegrated.

2.1 Campus of Hope

February has been a particularly difficult month for the children and the extended SVSG family as a whole. It was when SVSG experienced a day that it had always feared coming, when the effects of child abuse claimed the life of a child.

As SVSG said goodbye to Sanarosa during her funeral services, one other was successfully reintegrated following the successful completion of her case.
Iben Lauridsen, Qualified Psychotherapist from Denmark

On a sunny Tuesday morning, 26th of February 2019, I was introduced to the S.V.S.G. office and my new co-workers. I could feel the warmth of the atmosphere in S.V.S.G by the many smiles I received during my tour around the office. The first impression of the S.V.S.G. has since proven to be just that – warmth, caring, welcoming, which I think reflects the impressions people get when they come into its office whether it is for advocacy programmes, victims of abuse or just in need of help or guidance.

I flew in from the winter landscape of Denmark leaving my husband to take care of our two teenagers, our house and the dog. I had managed to get a two months break from my work as a counsellor dealing especially with people who suffer from suicidal behaviour and thoughts which not only affects them but have a huge impact on their families and friends. My personal goal was to get another perspective on how life is on the other side of the world compared to my own and set an example for especially my children to inspire them to do good in the world.

Little did I know how much I was to be moved, inspired, taught and blessed by the people I have met during my two months working as a volunteer in Samoa, through the Projects Abroad program.

One of the first projects I was involved in was the Nofotane Women’s Project, which provided the women skills to help their families with income and at the same time raise their status within the families. It was done with full respect to the cultural aspect of the Nofotane Woman and did not try to erase this Samoan cultural institution.

The Advocacy Programme was another involvement – especially for the women offenders of violence referred from the Family Court. It is a very unique form of partnership with the courts that I haven’t seen anywhere else in the world. Even though I unfortunately do not speak Samoan, the sweet Facilitators of the programme do, and they invited me to share my views on the different topics they covered during the programme – helping with translating my contributions and vice versa. After the participants finish their programme S.V.S.G prepares a Final Report for the Court and represented the participants during the Court’s final sentencing; often with a positive result.

Two new children were admitted into the shelter during the month of February. This takes the total number of children cared for in the shelters to 79; 10 boys and 69 girls, ranging from the ages 7 months to 19 years old.

There are 5 children with disabilities cared for at the Campus; 3 boys and 2 girls, age 7 – 18 years old. Caring for the children with disabilities continues to be a challenge given the lack of proper resources to cater for their specific needs. We do the best we can with what we have received through donations.

SANAROSA

The echo of an 18 year old victim’s cry resounds throughout the premises of the Campus of Hope. “Let what happened to me, ends with me.” This was the message that our dearest Sanarosa has left saturated in the lives of those who were beside her in her last battle and cry to end child abuse.

Rosa’s world was shattered when she was 12. For 6 years, Rosa continued to fight for her freedom; and over those six years, she learnt how to be strong in ways beyond her years. But as years went by, Rosa’s voice grew dim, and the effect of her burden was seen in illness.

When SVSG became home for Sanarosa late September 2018, SVSG noticed that Rosa was pale and weak, angry and bitter; and SVSG advocated for her justice, while at the same time referring her to the hospital.

Rosa suffered a stroke which paralyzed her whole left side in November 2018. Her health continued to decline and as the hope of a possible medical evacuation to New Zealand was denied in January 2019, Rosa showed those who were around her, the strength she had had to fight with daily.

Before Rosa passed away, in February, she shared her story in the hope that another child victim of rape would not have to bear the silent burden that she had had to carry – “Let what happened to me ends with me. In a Christian nation, children should grow up safely within their own family environment. I wasn’t. As such, I’m calling on all the parents to please love your children.”
Rosa’s message now lives on as part of the ‘Positive Movement’ fronted by the Sisters of Hope to encourage a positive mentality amongst our people as we go through life’s challenges.

And while carrying Rosa’s coffin to her final resting place wore out their young bodies, the Sisters of Hope pledged to keep Rosa’s message of hope alive to safe another child’s life.

Fun Day at Tanoa

Being able to have quality time with SVSG staff, SVSG Juniors and our children at the shelter was a perfect way to end a very emotional week. In a time of loss and grief, it is always important for our children to take time out and remember what it should be like to be a child living in Samoa.

Tanoa Tusitala Hotel management and staff hosted the children of hope as part of its yearly event in February. It is a time when the children of the management and staff come together with the children of hope for a day of fun.

The children were spoilt with fun games and activities; the highlight being a splash in the swimming pools. There was ice cream and cakes, fries and chicken, ice pops and soft drinks; it was a children’s party. And the SVSG Juniors were spotted everywhere, looking out for the children to ensure that the Fun Day was run smoothly while spending quality time with the children.

Thank you so much to the Tanoa Tusitala Hotel management and staff for continuing with this tradition. The children of hope always look forward to being guests at the hotel once a year. Thank you also to the Tanoa Tusitala staff association for putting together the $2,000.00 donation presented to the SVSG office for the children.

National Child Care & Protection Policy Forum with the MWCSD

SVSG as a child protection agency was represented at a forum to discuss the formulation of a National Child Care and Protection Policy coordinated by the Ministry of Women and Social Development in February for Implementing Agencies.

With stakeholders from the civil society, the judiciary, government ministries and the donor partners, it was discouraging to hear the progress of the child protection system in Samoa working backwards, from the Child Care and Protection Bill still in Parliament, to the National Child Care and Protection Policy in a formulation stage. SVSG continues to move forward with its child protection work guided by its Child Protection Policy 2018 and in partnership with the UNICEF Pacific.

Consultation on the Public Administration Sector Plan 2014-2018 Review

SVSG staff represented SVSG during a discussion in February with Mr. Gerald Gahima, the Public Administration Consultant and Mrs. Vanessa Barlow-Schuster, a Consultant for the Samoa Governance Support Programme (SGSP).

Discussions focussed around areas of the public services that work together with SVSG such as the Supreme & Family Courts; the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development relating to work with the children; and the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture with regards to the School of Hope for the children survivors of gender based violence under the care of SVSG. SVSG is looking forward to a Report by the Consultants on the Review for any assistance to SVSG and its work with the relevant government ministries.

Consultation on the National Public Inquiry Report into Family Violence

The SVSG Management met with Loukinikini Vili and Tracey Mikaele of the National Human Rights Institute to discuss findings and recommendations of the National Public Inquiry, relevant to SVSG and its work.

Amongst the recommendations discussed was the establishment of a National Family Violence Crisis Centre with in house certified counselors. SVSG expressed concerns about the setting up of a National Family Violence Crisis Centre; there is the question of adequate resources, capacity of the personnel and the additional costing of reinventing the Wheel, when such coordinating role should be covered under the Ministry of Women’s mandate.
**Spotlight Initiative Launch**

The Communications Officer and the Administration Officer represented SVSG to the launch of the Spotlight Initiative in February.

The Spotlight Initiative is a EU and UN Women commitment translated into Euro50,000,000 funding available to eliminate violence against women and girls in the Pacific.

It was a very high level gathering attended by the Prime Minister of Samoa, the European Union Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Population Fund Executive Director and many others.

SVSG is looking forward to seeing the dialogue exchanged at the Spotlight Initiative launch filtered down to reach the Program’s primary beneficiaries, the women and girls survivors of violence in the grassroot community.

**Washington DC: Social Norms Practices to Address Violence Against Women/Violence Against Children**

With support from the Learning Collaborative, the SVSG President was invited in February to attend a Learning Group Workshop in Washington DC from 9 – 11 April 2019.

The meeting will bring together a relatively small group of people (12 to 15) from research, practice, and funding agencies to discuss current practices to address norms at the VAW/VAC intersection, acknowledge challenges and identify key learning for moving forward.

The SVSG President has accepted the invitation and acknowledges the invitation from Ben Cislaghi at the LSHTM on the Learning Group on Social Norms and Gender-related Harmful Practices and Anjalee Kohli from the Learning Collaborative to Advance Normative Change.

**Auckland Women’s Rugby Team**

The Women’s Rugby Sevens team from Auckland New Zealand were in Samoa to attend the Marist Girls Rugby Sevens in February.

While in Samoa the team made sure they had the opportunity to donate to SVSG 10 rugby balls to further develop rugby as a rehabilitation program for the children at the Campus.

The SVSG Junior Coordinator, Franziska Finafinau received the donation on behalf of SVSG and thanked the Auckland Women’s Rugby Team for the kind donation.

**2.2 Child Vendors – The Hot Soup Skill Building Training**

Five more children that attended the Hot Soup Skill Building Training in 2018 were enrolled in the mainstream Primary Schools in February, courtesy of the full scholarships valued at ST3,000.00 from the Fexco Samoa Company Limited. In addition, SVSG also received in February sponsorships of ST1,029.20 from the Alofa Connection Trust of NZ, thank you Levaoatuaamaana.Aati-Schuster and the team for the support; and To’o To’oala of New Zealand with a sponsorship of ST574.64 for one of the children.

What started out as an alternative form of education for the child vendors through skill building training at the Campus of Hope, has turned into a ‘second chance’ opportunity for the younger children who we were able to train in the basics of reading and writing and are now attending either Aele or Vaigaga Primary schools.

For the older students, they are continuing with their skills training at the Hot Soup program, turning trash into saleable pot plants while experimenting with different designs for fabric printing.

The SVSG Juniors continued to monitor the progress of the children, discussing with the teachers and the principals the progress of the students, and any difficulties they might be facing as new students.
2.3 ECPAT International

February saw SVSG facilitating the completion of 12 surveys with frontline workers in Samoa that:

- Currently work as a service provider;
- Directly manages cases; and
- Have caseload include children

The 12 participants include service providers for people with disabilities, the Health Sector, the Law & Justice Sector, the community sector and the education sector.

Thank you so much to all the 12 participants for setting aside time for our Team to visit your offices and access the survey with you on line. The responses from you will assist ECPAT International to assess the scale, scope and context of the sexual exploitation of children in the Pacific region.

3. ADVOCACY PROGRAMS FOR OFFENDERS OF VIOLENCE

The men, women and young offenders of violence that have been given a second chance through rehabilitation under the SVSG Advocacy Programs may have committed minor offences, but these offences nevertheless, threaten the security of families and communities.

For the young offenders, the most common offences which landed them at the SVSG Youth Empowerment Program are burglary and theft.

The men’s offences are more physical in nature causing injury such as assault, while the women are skewed towards verbal and insulting words.

Whatever the case may be, the facilitators of the SVSG Advocacy Programs are always ready to work on both behavioural and mentality changes as part of the referrals rehabilitation. The holistic healing of the body, mind and soul is the basics that guide the rehabilitation programs facilitated by the church, village and youth leaders.

A total of 44 offenders: 12 youth; 13 women and 10 men attended the SVSG Advocacy Programs in February; 12 of them have successfully completed their programs and were acquitted by the Courts without convictions.

Book Drive for Faleapuna Library - Upolu

The SVSG Juniors continued with its community projects based on the identified need for support.

The recently dedicated new school building for the Faleapuna Primary School saw a request from the community there for assistance with library books.

Therefore, the SVGS Juniors is calling to our families and friends to kindly donate any reading books suitable for the children towards its Faleapuna Library project. Feel free to drop by the SVSG Office next to the Police station in Apia and the enthusiastic SVSG Junior volunteers will record down all your donations, sort and stamp the books ready for their final beneficiaries. Education is the key to success so please let’s work together for our children attending the Faleapuna Primary School.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

30th World Peace Tour, Sydney 2019

The SVSG President was amongst over 500 representatives from all sectors of society including youths, professors, women leaders, politicians and head of states; that gathered at the International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour for the 30th World Peace Tour in February.

On the theme of “Spreading a Culture of Peace beyond ethnicity and borders”, the conference facilitated the communication between the civil society and their leaders as the starting point for true peace and harmony to be sustained in the multicultural society.
Breaking the Cycle: Men & Boys Engage to EVAW

The SVSG Juniors is not taking lightly its involvement with the 6-nations Breaking the Cycle Project commonly referred to as Break IN.

In partnership with NGOs from Spain, India, Madagascar, Netherlands and Sri Lanka, the SVSG Juniors, since hosting the Project’s Initial Meeting here in Apia in January, have been getting the young men involved in its programs.

The Youth Outreach in Savaii, the First Aid Training with the Red Cross and the continuing Youth Empowerment Program for young offenders referred from the Youth Court, are the golden opportunities that the SVSG Juniors have utilized in February to further engage the young men and boys to its Breaking the Cycle of Violence Program.

Samoa will again be represented during the next gathering of the 6-nations Project Team at New Delhi, India in March, to share on each participating countries best practices and lessons learnt in involving men and boys as part of the Break IN.

Choir of Hope

Lead by the Sisters of Hope, the Choir of Hope finally bought the latest model of the Yamaha PSR-S970 keyboard for its practice courtesy of the children’s close friend in the Gold Coast.

Thank you so much for remitting us $4787.00 to buy this much needed equipment for the children’s rehabilitation program.

The Choir of Hope is coordinated by the SVSG Juniors as part of its ongoing programs for the children residence of the Campus of Hope.

4. SVSG VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES

Touching Base with SVSG Village Reps in Savaii

It is important to celebrate the diligence of our Village Representatives. This month we made sure to visit our village representatives in Savaii to thank them for their tireless efforts in keeping our communities safe. They are the eyes and ears in the spaces we cannot reach every day.

During a community outreach to Savai’i, the SVSG President, staff and the SVSG Juniors were able to meet and learn from the village representatives from Vaiafai, Salelavalu, Faala, Fogapoa, Lano and Safotu.

Members of the SVSG Juniors learnt from the SVSG Village Rep. for Foailuga, Paevai Pealaila, on how as a leader, he maintains a happy and safe environment for his family.

This is no text book theory, but practical knowledge straight from the leaders themselves.

Next was visiting the elderly in Savaii whose families have requested wheelchair assistance from SVSG. Faaseu Aifaalua, 78 years old of Foailuga was one of the proud recipients of the wheelchair assistance and the SVSG Juniors assisted him being comfortable in his new mobile equipment.

We paused, reflected, analysed and discussed what we were seeing in our communities around Samoa while also taking time to celebrate the successes.

“Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.” - 1 Peter 4:11 -
5. THE NOFOTANE PROJECT WITH THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT (CFLI)

The impact of the Canadian funded project to sustain the employability of the empowered nofotane women can be seen in the confident smiles of the women who now have access to opportunities far beyond their imaginations.

Take for example Alisa Liga Mataua of Foailuga Savaii who is one happy nofotane woman. She was one of the participants to the livelihood program offered by the UN Women FGE funded program in 2018, who had gone on to start a small business of her own. She also participated in the Canadian funded project to help the new entrepreneurs sustain their small businesses.

Alisa is therefore a living proof that sustainable self-employment comes from having the right attitude. Through her hard work, she now earns $500.00 per week from selling handicrafts, making her a breadwinner in her family, thereby contributing to the economy of Samoa, from the informal sector.

During February, the Canadian funded project rolled out its final SHINE workshops for close to 150 nofotane women from 30 villages including Vavau, Aufaga, Lotofaga, Matatufu, Falevai, Matautu, Pata, Siufaga, Samatau, Taiuea, Samusu, Amaile, Mutiatele, Satitoa, Lotopue, Lalomanu, Utufaalala, Taufioal, Fusi, Salamumu, Sataoa, Matautu Lefaga, Savaia, Tafagamanu, Faleaseela, Eva, Lauili, Leusoalii, Luatuanuu, Solosolo and Letogo.

Due to the bad weather conditions, the Nofotane Closing Market scheduled for the end February was postponed to the first week of March.

He addressed issues that the youth of Samoa face today and was not afraid to address the undermined perception of women and gender based violence.

This event was part of a three day first aid training organised by the Red Cross Samoa. The SVSG Juniors were happy to be a part of this training and saw the importance of being qualified and knowing what to do in emergency situations.

Thank you to the youth members from the CCCS Fasitootuata Youth Group, the Malaemalu Falealili Youth Group, and the Vaibusu Youth Group for representing the SVSG Juniors to this important training program.

Thank you also to Namulauulu Tautala Muala, the Director of the Red Cross Samoa for supporting the partnership with SVSG in building the capacity of our youth to respond to emergency situations.

Clean Water Project

Following up on the condition of the previously donated water tanks, accessing clean water is something that is very important to the SVSG Juniors.

When something is donated we want to make sure that it is donated and placed in a state that allows for sustainability, especially in rural areas where access to clean water is limited but vital. It is important that these water tanks are well looked after.

Under the supervision of the Red Cross Samoa, SVSG Juniors also travelled into rural villages and were taught how to manage, respond, and fix water tanks if they were damaged. This knowledge is vital and prepares our SVSG Juniors for emergency situations where the likelihood of being called to resurrect clean water supplies for rural communities would present itself.
Thank you so much Rev. Soti Roma of the CCCS Lalomalava for the inspirational sharing to our youths. We look forward to our partnership as you share your wisdom and leadership in strengthening our work with the youth.

During the outreach the SVSG Juniors experienced extreme weather conditions which saw them stranded on the Island of Savaii for another extra night.

This didn’t dampen their spirits as they continued to worship and see this as all part of God’s plan to further their programme awareness reach in Savaii.

**Sunday with the CCCS Fasito’o Uta Youth**

After being stranded in Samoa, the SVSG Juniors continued with its community outreach, this time, with the Congregational Christian Church of Samoa, Fasitoo-uta Youth Group.

Having the church leaders take part in the youth outreach program is important for the sustainability of the youth engagement at the village level.

Thank you so much Rev. Uta Muaulu of the CCCS Fasitoo-uta and Youth Leader Rev. Farani Pauga for being part of the SVSG Juniors and its programs.

**First Aid Training with the Samoa Red Cross & Presentation for UNFPA**

United Nations Fund for Population Activities is a UN agency that states it is “the lead agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every child birth is safe and every young persons potential is fulfilled.”

On the 26th February, Vice President Franziska Sione was given an opportunity to present the work of SVSG Juniors at a UNFPA event. He talked about SVSG Juniors as a Youth division of Samoa Victim Support Group that sought to empower, inspire and encourage the youth of Samoa to embrace the journey that they were on as youth.

**Business Workshop for the Nofotane Star Earners**

From the 700+ nofotane earners created through the Nofotane Project, twenty start earners have been selected to take part in another project aimed at developing the quality of their products for an on line market.

Referred to as the Susu and Meli Project (Milk & Honey), the idea is a brainchild of Ms. Nicole Penman, currently undertaking a PhD at the University of Queensland Australian, on Women’s Entrepreneurship in the Pacific.

Through the MECHTA VAN BOOGERT AWARD that Ms. Penman won, she is able to fund development workshops for 20 Nofotane Star Earners, majority are weavers, to work on the quality of their products for sale at the Australian market.

In February, the first phase of the Project saw Twenty Nofotane star earners taking part in a 3-day live-in workshop at the Eden’s Edge Togafuafua.

During the workshop, the star earners were inspired in their craft and encouraged in their craftsmanship. They were told that it was important to continue to develop their craft and that it was time they designed and catered for a variety of clients and their needs, including the international market. Harriet Goodall, a professional weaver was one of the guests who not only encouraged the women but also challenged them as she worked closely with them during a design and quality control workshop.

Here you see twenty Nofotane star earners celebrating their unique gifts as they look forward to the opportunity of weaving for the Australian market.
6. **ONE SKY GIVING CIRCLE**

**The Positive Movement**

While the Positive Movement has reached primary schools, market vendors, taxi drivers and the general public in February, billboards promoting the Message have been set up alongside the roads in downtown Apia.

The positive message is slowly becoming a slogan with the participants to the Positive Movement. And it is small changes like these that we nurture and encourage so that despite the challenges we each face in life; we will always look at these with a positive mentality. Because according to the survivors of gender based violence; the Sisters of Hope, who are fronting this Campaign, “if we can do it, so can you.”

Thank you so much to the One Sky Giving Circle of San Francisco California for the grant which enabled SVSG to carry out the Positive Movement.

As the Sisters of Hope is fronting the Positive Movement, this is SVSG’s contribution to the inspiration behind the One Sky Giving Circle that “Women hold up half the sky”, that we all coexist under that one sky, and must work together to, proverbially, hold it up.

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6. **SVSG JUNIORS**

SVSG Juniors is the evidence that the hard work and passion Samoa Victim Support Group has will not stop with them. It is the confidence in having the next generation continue the work that is established today.

Despite being full time workers themselves, youth members from the 15 Youth Groups currently registered under the SVSG Junior umbrella, have assisted with the community programs being carried out in February:

**Clean-up & BBQ for the Children of Hope**

Here we see the SVSG Juniors sacrificing their weekends to host a working bee at the Campus of Hope. They trimmed the hedges, cleaned the yard and ended the day with a BBQ and games for their “brothers and sisters” at the Campus.

Thank you SVSG Juniors for your tireless effort to be role models for the sheltered children.

**Library Books for Foailuga Savaii**

In January, the SVSG Juniors launched a book drive and received pre-loved books from local and international donors. In February, they sorted, packed and cleaned these books, making sure that they were ready to be delivered to the island of Savaii.

These books were readily received by the youth from Foailuga, and the gratitude that these youth had for what was yet to be discovered on the pages of these books could be seen in the youths readiness to unpack and sort these books out at 1 in the morning.

The SVSG Juniors would like to thank those who generously donated and continue to support their work. Follow the SVSG Juniors Facebook page to stay updated with information on future book drives.

**Youth Outreach Programme in Savaii**

The SVSG Juniors youth outreach began with a message shared by Vice President, Franziska Sione to “expect the unexpected”.

The youth members that participated from the Salelavalu SDA Church, Lalomalava CCCS, the Vaiafai LDS Church, the Faala CCCS and the village of Vaiafai were inspired and made aware of the programmes and work provided by the SVSG Juniors.