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

TO ENGAGE IS TO INSPIRE
TO ENGAGE IS TO COMMIT
TO ENGAGE IS TO VOICE WHAT NEEDS TO BE VOICED
TO ENGAGE IS TO CREATE A COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS EACH OTHER
27th June 2020

Afioga Misa Telefoni Retzlaff
APIA
Samoa

Dear Misa,

RE: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT ($2000.00)

Greeting and talofa lava in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health.

As per SVSG’s usual accountability to its donors who are making this service possible, we hereby acquit financial donations of $2,000.00 SAT received in March 2020 for the shelter, which enables us to pay some of the expenses for the Campus of Hope. (Please refer attach copies of receipts)

1. 2nd April 2020 - Cash Power for Shelter ........................ $ 100.00
2. 2nd April 2020 - Icon Chemicals .................................. $ 66.00
3. 8th April 2020 - Cash Power for Shelter .................... $ 100.00
4. 8th April 2020 - Food Shopping ................................. $ 609.57
5. 8th April 2020 - Shelter Maintenance ....................... $ 350.00
6. 8th April 2020 - Veggie Garden Supplies ................. $ 254.00
7. 15th April 2020 - Cash Power for Shelter ............... $ 100.00
8. 15th April 2020 - Shelter Shopping ......................... $ 357.32
9. 7th May 2020 - Cash Power for Shelter ................ $ 100.00

Total .............................................. $2036.89

(Excess of $36.89 is funded by other donors)

Thank you very much Misa for your generosity. You have not only blessed us with this donation, but you have also motivated our team knowing that there are people out there who believes in the work of SVSG.

We pray that our heavenly Father will continue to bless you and your family.

Faafetai, Faafetai tele lava and God Bless.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Silliniu Lina Chang
SVSG PRESIDENT
A special thank you to SVSG’s ongoing supporters whose patronage and partnership continued on a daily basis:

- Toleafoa Elon Betham and the team at the Le Aute Gas for 2 x monthly gas refills for the House of Blessings;
- 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;
- Mr. & Mrs. Ken Newton and the CCK Trading Limited for the donation of clothes for the children;
- Greg & Maria Meredith for the children’s daily supplies of bread;
- Epi Smith for the children’s bread supplies twice a week;
- Uato & Anna Ryan for the children’s Sunday toanai & bread supplies;
- Luamanuvae Dr. Kapuana D. Ainuu, 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;
- Uncle Johnny for the children’s ice cream and cone supplies every Sundays;
- Maurice & Elanit Mitry of Australia for donating towards the Campus water rates;
- Motuipuaa Dr. Aisoli Vaai of the Saleufi Medical Clinic and Tau-lealeausumai Dr. Titi Lamese of the Ola Fou Clinic, for the children’s free medical consultation;
- Zhenna Chan Mow-Fa’auiga of Niu Pharmacy for the free medication supplies;
- To 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;
- To the churches, villages and individuals that donated food and miscellaneous supplies to assist with the children’s daily needs;

Talofa

I trust this edition of the Engage Newsletter finds you and your families safe and well despite the strange times we are living in.

There is no doubt that COVID-19 had brought with it a new norm in our way of life; whether you reside in a COVID affected nation or a virus-free one like Samoa. Whatever the case may be, a lot has changed in our corner of paradise since March, as humanity faces a health challenge with adverse social, economic and political effects.

Samoa Victim Support Group recorded a 20% increase in domestic violence cases lodged with the Group during the national State of Emergency declared in March 2020, compared to the same time last year. The lockdown brought with it unemployment and job loss with the brunt being severely felt within the homes.

March therefore saw SVSG re-strategizing its efforts as it braces itself for more challenging times ahead. Resources were re-directed to the ‘essential’ services high in demand such as the operation of the Help Line, on line counselling, victim evacuation and shelter care. Community projects came under the ‘non-essential’ services in compliance with the SOE Orders on public gatherings, public transport and the social distancing rules.

In the midst of all this preparation work, SVSG identified the need for greater coordination and solidarity, as we saw how the COVID-19 has presented us and our blue Pacific family with a rare opportunity—a time for all of us to reset.

Find that safe space and keep safe. If it is in the home, then stay at home. If the home is no longer safe, ‘speak out’. Because if there is any other time where the message to ‘Speak Out’ requires an amplified tune, it is here and now. In God’s mercy and grace, we will remain safe.

Warm regards

Georgina Lui  
Chair, SVSG BOARD
1. **THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC: COVID-19**

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**Donations Dropped Off @ Office**

- Donation from Peace corps volunteer returning home due to COVID-19
- Donation of clothes and toys from Karl James Laulu and family of Aai o Niue

**Donations Dropped Off @ Campus**

- Bread and butter from Molioʻo Pio and family
- Soft drinks from Maota o Samoa
- Uili & Lina of Vaiusu
- SVSG Patron Tuisugaleta Sofara Aveau & Family

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**COVID-19 LOCK DOWN : VIOLENCE IS NOT TOLERATED**

**HELP IS NOT ON SHUTDOWN**

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**Call SVSG Help Line**

800-7874

It’s Free!

24 HOURS

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Email: svsngsamoa@gmail.com
Facebook: SVSG Samoa
Website: www.samoavictimssupport.org
FINANCIAL & IN KIND DONATION
With grateful hearts, we acknowledge the generosity of our supporting community here and abroad, without which, we will not be able to be of service to our people in need.

Faafetai! Faafetai! Faafetai tele lava.

Financial Donors

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In Kind Donations

Australian Community Donation

Since the beginning of the year, Ms. Delsa Danielson, the co-founder of Koko Samoa & Co Ltd, and Ms. Jada Faanana Schultz, the founder of The Hutt, both in Brisbane Australia, have coordinated the collection and the shipment of a container load of donations.

The container load of measles donation arrived late March.

Thank you Delsa and Jada for all the work put into getting this much needed donation for our people in need. It came at the right time to support our local efforts to prepare our people for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you also to the Ministry of Customs & Revenue, the Samoa Ports Authority, the Quarantine Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Pacific Forum Line, for assisting us with the clearance of these donated goods for our community.

1.1 State of Emergency and Lockdown Restrictions

Within a span of a couple of months, the government had imposed the second State of Emergency (SOE) for Samoa and its people on 21 March 2020, to be observed for 14 days. This time, the SOE was in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The SOE came at the time when SVSG was rolling out its ‘Road to Recovery’ program for the families who have lost children to the measles. More than 83 of our children nationwide were killed, leaving the nation in a vulnerable state of mourning during the early COVID-19 preparedness process.

As a support service provider, SVSG immediately started making the following contingency plans.

- Prior to the government declared SOE, the Campus had already been closed off to staff, visitors and volunteers except for the Board and Executive members and the live in carer personnel.
- The ‘essential’ services such as supporting victims of crimes and the vulnerable members of the community were prioritized over the ‘non-essential’ services such as community project implementation.
- Some of the staff members were asked to take their annual leave in compliance with the social distancing rule of not more than 5 people in a gathering.
- Staff members in the Child Protection and the Gender Equality Division were rostered to man the toll free Help Line. The SVSG Village Representatives, who make up the Response Teams, were alerted to be on standby, in anticipation of an influx in the number of callers utilizing this service during lockdown.
- A training centre within the Campus was turned into a temporary women’s refuge as we contemplated the possibility of increased domestic violence cases when the most vulnerable, women and girls, are trapped within their homes together with the abusers during lockdown.
Within a matter of days, our normal way of life became the abnormal. Social distancing, quarantined, travel restrictions etc, were not optional, but rather a requirement in the new norm. SVSG therefore anticipated fear and uncertainty when people are faced with a health crisis, to have detrimental social and economic impacts on our daily lives.

We therefore acknowledge with gratitude an order of natural cleaning products to maintain a hygienic environment for the baby nursery courtesy of Crystal Libby of North Carolina.

1.2 Uncertainty, the Social and Economic Impacts
During the 14-days SOE from 21 March to 3 April 2020, SVSG handled minor cases from families fighting over the rationing of food during dinner; to husbands venting their anger from being laid off work onto their wives and children; to severe matters where an adulterer allegedly ran his wife down with a family car as the tensions of staying in lockdown reached near boiling point. Safety had been violated due to our people in a state of uncertainty.

The Help Line gave the most vulnerable population immediate access to support during these challenging times. SVSG evacuated a mother and her 6 children who called the Help Line at 5.00 in the morning, as the children have gone for a day without food, the father had been laid off from work. In another incident, a mother of 4 children requested shelter assistance as she feared her husband’s daily threats to kill her whenever he comes home from work. He is a casual worker in the tourism industry and faces the risk of being permanently being unemployed due to the closure of the borders.

From SVSG’s perspective, COVID-19 is much more than a health crisis. It is a human, economic and social crisis. Look at how our people are already feeling the brunt of a pandemic that has not yet reached our shores? March therefore saw SVSG re-strategizing its workplan as we braced ourselves for challenging times ahead.

5. SVSG JUNIORS

5.1 Alliance for Future Generations, Fiji
While attending the CRC Committee meeting, Mr Lavetanalagi Seru of the Alliance for Future Generations took time out to spend with SVSG youth group, as well as the children at the Campus.

The SVSG Juniors joins the Alliance for Future Generations and other regional partners in addressing issues affecting youths in the Pacific such as youth unemployment, youth empowerment, climate change, to name a few.

We wish Lagi and the team at the Alliance for Future Generations, Fiji all the best in championing the voice and meaningful participation of young people in sustainable development.

5.2 Nuanua ole Alofa (NOLA) Tool Kit Launch
SVSG was represented by the SVSG Junior Coordinator at the launching of ‘The Toolkit’ put together by the Nuanua o le Alofa, to address violence against women and girls with disabilities.

Congratulations Mataafa Faatino Masunu Utumapu, Office Manager of NOLA and your team for this milestone achievement.
4.2 Sustainable Income Generation & Self Employment of Nofotane Women

Following the successful completion of the Nofotane project with the UN Women Fund for Gender Equality in 2018, SVSG’s work continued to assist the sustainability of the women’s progress.

In March, the SVSG’s application to the Civil Society Support Program (CSSP) was successful. A 2-year project titled: Sustainable Income Generation & Self Employment of Nofotane Women, was approved funding of ST300,000 for the nofotane women with the financial support of the European Union.

President Siliniu Lina Chang signed the Grant Contract on behalf of SVSG, officiating the commencement of the project.

4.3 Equality & Justice Alliance

SVSG’s contribution to the combined work of the Regional Civil Societies Organization, coordinated by the Equality & Justice Alliance to make justice work better for marginalized women, girls and the LGBT+ people in the Pacific saw SVSG’s awareness team gathering community crowds around Savaii in March.

In 2019, SVSG joined the Samoa Fa’afafine Association and local partners in carrying out the National Advocacy Campaign to end violence, stigma and discrimination.

Using the human rights based approach and the gender equality approach, SVSG’s awareness focused on equality and justice for all, especially the vulnerable groups of abused women and girls. Thank you to the Equality & Justice Alliance of the United Kingdom for the ST20,000 grant supporting SVSG’s efforts to end discrimination and stigmatization relating to domestic violence here in Samoa.
SVSG’s Workplan for 2020 did not include any provision for support services in light of the global pandemic. As such, the financial assistance of USD15,000 from the UNDP Samoa Spotlight Initiative, enabled SVSG to scale up the delivery of its GBV responsive services for women, children and vulnerable groups in the context of the COVID-19.

The operation of the 24 hour toll free Help Line placed SVSG as a frontline service provider at the national level for women, children and those seeking help during the COVID-19 lockdown.

The funding enabled SVSG to finance the Response Team responsible for evacuating and attending to any GBV calls via the Help Line. It further assisted with promoting the Help Line number, counselling, shelter and welfare support required for the survivors of violence being evacuated from their homes during this time. Thank you to Louisa Apelu and the Team at the Spotlight Initiative for coming on board to support us when we needed it the most.

2. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)
The uncertainty of the looming COVID-19 pandemic and the panic state within families struggling financially are the perfect ingredients for violence to invade our peaceful environment.

During the 2 weeks SOE from 21 March – 3 April 2020, SVSG recorded a 40% increase in the number of GBV cases lodged with the Group compared to the same time in 2019.

Of the 21 cases of GBV recorded during this time:
- 14 were against women
- 6 were against children
- 1 against a man

The forms of violence affecting the victims range from physical, verbal, emotional and 1 sexual abuse of a woman. All of the GBV cases came through SVSG via the Help Line, which was what we anticipated given the restrictions on travel imposed under the SOE.

3.7 Child Vendors – The Hot Soup Skill Building Training
The livelihood skills training for child vendors, like most of SVSG’s programs, was put on hold since early March 2020 when the Campus of Hope was closed off to visitors, volunteers and staff. The program was also closed mid-November 2019 due to the SOE on the measles pandemic.

In order to ensure that the children in the program will complete a 12 months training, SVSG will submit a request to the donor agency, the US Embassy of Apia, for an extension of the grant period pending any review by the government of the SOE restrictions.

4. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

4.1 Nofotane Women Entrepreneur

Fuaina Tino, a nofotane woman of Sili Savaii is one of the success stories behind SVSG’s program to address gender equality and domestic violence, through the economic empowerment of women. She is one of the Nofotane Program’s up and rising entrepreneurs.

Fuaina used to be an unemployed nofotane woman. She attended SVSG’s livelihood skills training in 2017 and learnt commercial cooking; making pork buns, donuts and other baking products.

Today, Fuaina is an entrepreneur, progressing from walking throughout her village and the neighbouring villages, to sell her products, to setting up her small shop in front of their house.

As a breadwinner, Fuaina’s smile says it all. The confidence, the happiness and how Fuaina flourishes were moments worth capturing, while serving some of her clients, the young children from a nearby Primary School.

To date, close to 1,000 nofotane women are earning a living for themselves and their families courtesy of the economic empowerment programs by SVSG and its development partners.
Village Collective of New Zealand

Letoa Henry Jenkins, the Chairman and Program Manager of the Village Collective, visited the Campus of Hope as part of the Village Collective’s scoping mission in Samoa.

A charitable trust that specializes in developing and delivering culturally appropriate Healthy Relationships and Wellbeing programmes to Pacific youth in Auckland, SVSG was visited as the charity look towards expanding its work here in Samoa.

Tuiloma Sina Retzlaff coordinated the visit on behalf of the Village Collective. Thank you Letoa and the team for the informative session with the children as well as the donation of ST500.00 presented during the visit.

3.6 School of Hope

Before the School of Hope was temporarily closed due to the COVID-19, the children attended a program coordinated by National Orchestra of Samoa to educate, to inspire and to entertain the children through the performances of Samoan and classical style of music.

Fifty children from the School attended the 2-days program, learning to hold and to play the string instruments such as violin and cello.

The program also assisted in building the children’s self-esteem as they were exposed to learning outside of the Campus.

Even the children with disabilities from the School of Hope took part in this inspirational activity by the National Orchestra of Samoa.

Thank you to Fonoti PJ Sili Ieriko and the team for your patient while teaching the children the basics in playing the musical instruments available to them during this learning activity.

There were 5 mothers and 16 children who utilized the temporary shelter set up within the Campus specifically for the GBV victims during the lockdown. SVSG applied for Protection Orders for the mothers and their children while the cases were referred to the Police for their usual investigations.

Due to the importance of the Help Line in connecting people to SVSG for assistance, the number was promoted via social media, newspapers, radio and television stations.

SVSG’s network partners such as the UN Women, the ECPAT International and the With and For Girls Collective were amongst those that played a very important role in promoting the Help Line and encouraging our people to seek help any time.

Whatever the situation may be, please be reminded that help is always available through the SVSG tool free Help Line number 800-7874. If you are unable to talk safely on the phone, you can message us on the SVSG Facebook (SVSG Samoa) or lock on to this link: https://www.facebook.com/samoavictimsupportgroup/
Highlighted below are some of these cases to give you more insight into the magnitude of the work of SVSG in addressing gender based violence:

03.03.20: Attempted Suicide
At 23 years old with a good job and a partner that had declared his love for her since they have been together for 5 years, this young woman thought she had it all. However, what was supposed to be the happiest day of her life, when she told her partner that she is 2 months pregnant, turned into her worst nightmare. The partner left her without a word. She tried calling him but his phone was switched off. The last straw was when the young woman’s family told her that her partner had returned to his wife and children whom she never knew before. She attempted suicide and was saved when her family got to her in time. Through the Help Line, this young woman requested for help, and immediately, our Response Team evacuated her to the safety of the Campus. SVSG’s counselling team are working with this young woman not only in remaining healthy for her unborn child, but most importantly, for herself.

11.03.20: Gender Based Violence
An elderly father of 63 years old was referred to SVSG for help from an SVSG Village Representative. The father’s 31 year old son had been abusing his wife and 6 children whenever he comes home drunk. The wife and children were all scared of this young man and so the father became the voice of these victims of family violence. When the SOE was declared, SVSG was still awaiting for the son to attend the counseling program being set for him, however, he never turned up. However, during the second week of the SOE, the father called SVSG again on the Help Line, requesting for the 6 grandchildren to be sheltered for their safety, as the troubled son was at it again, abusing both the wife and children. SVSG’s Response Team evacuated the 6 children (4 girls and 2 boys) who are now safe at the Campus of Hope. SVSG applied for Protection Order for the children while the Police is investigating the matter further.

13.03.20: Sexual Abuse
A distressed father of a 15 year old girl sought SVSG’s help for his daughter who was sexually abused by an extended relative at their home. In his anger, the father could not sit still, as he paced back and forth inside the interview room at our office. Once he was calm, he assisted our team with the evacuation of his daughter from home that same evening for the matter to be referred to the Police, and for his daughter’s safety. The father had been provided with counseling assistance and so as the daughter while under SVSG’s shelter care.

LDS Upolu Aleisa Stake & Tapatapao Ward
The outpour of love and support from our families and supporters continued throughout March.
Taking up their turn of providing for the children’s welfare needs were the leaders from the LDS Upolu Aleisa Stake & Tapatapao Ward.
Thank you to Bishop Daniel Craig and the congregation for this kind donation.

LDS Aleisa Stake 1st Ward
From bags of rice to cartons of tinned fish, boxes of chicken and sugar, President Talimuaina, Bishop Esau Afoa and Brother Benko Ah Hoy who coordinated this donation, knew exactly what we need for the children’s meals every day.
Thank you to the leaders and the congregation of the LDS Aleisa Stake 1st Ward for putting together this kind donation.

Vodafone Executive Team in the House
The new Chief Executive Officer of Vodafone, Mr. Satish Kumar Sharma and the Management Team took time out to visit the children at the Campus in March.
Mr. Sharma encouraged the children to set goals and work hard to achieve them as they have the potential to do greater things in life.
We look forward to working in partnership with Vodafone in serving our community.
Samoa Police Women Advisory Network

Thank you to the President of the Samoa Police Women Advisory Network, Koireti Fidow and the Network members, for continuing the annual donation for the children of hope.

This is in celebration of the International Women’s Day by the female Police officers every year.

LDS Faletagaloa and Salelologa Wards

When travel between Upolu and Savaii were put on hold as part of the lockdown restrictions, Bishops from the Saletagaloa and the Salelologa Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints presented their donation for the children, to our Office at Tuasivi.

Receiving the donation of toiletry and food supplies on behalf of SVSG were our village representatives helping out at the office. Thank you Bishop Leana Taifau and Bishop Pauli Junior Salima, and the congregation for this kind donation.

LDS Faleasiu & Tufulele Wards

While the Savaii Village Reps were receiving the donation from the LDS Church in Savaii, the SVSG President was also receiving food supplies donated by the Faleasiu and Tufulele Wards of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints.

Thank you Bishop Ene Sauvao and Bishop Salu Tupai and families in the congregation for your contribution towards this donation.

13.03.20: Custody

It is usually a mother who requested SVSG’s assistance for custody of the children when the father is abusive, or when he leaves her for another woman. However, there are times when the fathers become the victim of extramarital affairs. A 58 year old father of 4 children sought help with SVSG to apply for custody for his children. For the fourth time, his wife had run away from home with their children, and all the time, it is with a different man. This father is more concerned for the 10 year old daughter with disabilities. SVSG referred the matter to the Ministry of Justice for their usual support.

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

Leleiga Pitolua Tuaimalo

Good Morning SVSG! I would like to thank you for the on-going wonderful job you are doing in Samoa. I have recently followed this page and this is in fact a sad reality not only in Samoa but around the world as well, were we have wonderful Mothers/Children who are constantly going through this abuse. I pray for the workers and victims of SVSG and ask that God bless you and bring warmth over the families who feel the need to seek help. Love and hugs from NZ xx

3. CHILD PROTECTION

3.1 84th Extraordinary Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

As child protection agencies around the Pacific travelled to Apia early March to take part in the 84th Extraordinary Session of the CRC Committee, SVSG and the abused children at the Campus of Hope were just as excited.

This is because the Committee members had pledged to take their plight to the whole world after spending time with the children of hope at the Campus prior to the official programs.

The Chair of the Board welcomed the committee to the Campus with the President giving an overview of SVSG’s work with children.
The committee members were moved by the President’s account of SVSG’s humble beginnings and the passion to overcome odds faced on a daily basis while fighting for the children’s right to justice.

As a member of the CRC Committee, and an advisor on SVSG’s work with children, Justice Vui Clarence Nelson beamed with pride as he accompanied the members for a tour of the schooling facility before saying goodbye to the children.

The Committee members donated ST770 for the children of hope.

SVSG also acknowledges the presence of one of its valuable supporters, Justice Tafaoimalo Leilani Tuala-Warren, who joined us in welcoming the CRC committee to the Campus of Hope.

3.1.1 Child Labour Talanoa Session
The SVSG Junior Coordinator, Namulauulu Franziska Finafinau presented on SVSG’s work to remove child vendors from the streets, as a panelist during the International Labor Organization Side Event at the CRC session.

The rights of the child to be educated, to be raised well, to be cared for are some of the children’s rights being violated by their laboring on the streets.

ILO is one of the many partners SVSG has been working with over the years to address the child labor problem in Samoa.

3.5 Campus of Hope
A total of 92 children and 1 mother were cared for at the Campus in March; there were 2 children admitted for the first time while 2 other children were successfully reintegrated. There were

- 9 babies, age 9 months to 2 years old;
- 16 boys age 3 – 15;
- 1 boy age 17;
- 58 girls age 3 – 18 years old;
- 8 girls age 19 – 20 and
- 1 abused mother.

At the temporary refuge for mothers and their children amidst the COVID-19 lockdown, a total of 3 mothers were sheltered together with their 11 children during March.

As precautionary measures in place for the safety of children currently in residence, a separate building was turned into a temporary refuge for women and children brought in during this time. With the support from the Spotlight Initiative, we were able to provide for the wellbeing of the mothers and their children while under our care. By the end of March, we were able to place some of these mothers with their families once Protection Orders applied for the safety have been completed.

Due to the Campus being closed off to the public as protection for the children against COVID-19, a Drop-Off Zone was set up just inside the gate, to receive donations of food and clothing that continued to be received from our community. The outpour of love and support was tremendous, as we’ve seen a community looking out for each other during these challenging times.

Dee Pologa SVSG thank you for your amazing work, truly god sent. May the Lord continue to bless you all with the strength, courage, love and protection to continue to help our people who need your help. You are God’s angels here on earth sent to change the lives of those who needed help when they have nowhere else to turn.❤
3.3 Court Support
Before the government declared the State of Emergency on 20 March 2020, SVSG provided court support for two children and three women.

At the Supreme Court, the perpetrator of a rape case against a 13 year old under SVSG’s shelter care was sentenced to 7 years in prison.

At the Family Court, a Protection Order against the father of a 12 year old abused male was set final. The same applies to 3 women survivors of violence who all applied for Protection Orders against their abusive husbands.

All the Courts were closed off in compliance with the SOE provision. As such, SVSG’s Advocacy Programs were also put on hold until the government review the SOE restriction on 3 April 2020.

3.4 The Reintegration Program
Two siblings age 7 and 9 were caught in a feud between parents who have separated due to the woman’s alleged extra marital affair. Prior to the separation, the man abused his wife and when the son intervened, he was also abused. The father had since appeared in the Family Court for this matter. The woman’s mother in turn chased the woman away from their home together with her children. The woman sought shelter assistance with SVSG in February for her children and was granted.

In March, when the couple had worked things out, they returned to take their children home. The children will be raised by the grandmother who lives together with the reunited family.

Prior to the reintegration, the Child Protection Team carried out an assessment of the family’s situation by visiting them at home. This was to ensure that the children will be released to an environment that continues to support their wellbeing and safety. The SVSG Village Representative was involved in the assessment and he had been tasked with monitoring the progress of the children as they were reintegrated in March.

Without the financial support from UNICEF Pacific, SVSG will not be able to carry out this important part of its work with children.

3.1.2 Spotlight Initiative Launched
“I am a survivor”, was the theme of Ms. Leilua Lino’s speech during the Spotlight Initiative Launch at Taumeasina in March.

Leilua focused on the importance to the children of being able to ‘speak out’. “It saved my life,” she said.

Leilua joined the Prime Minister of Samoa, the European Union Ambassador, and the UN Resident Coordinator as the main speakers during this important event in Samoa.

Watching Leilua advocated for the children’s rights amongst the local and global leaders, is an achievement for SVSG’s child protection work in Samoa.

The Spotlight Initiative is a joint United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) global multi-year initiative, focused on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG).

3.1.3 Child Rights for Protection with UNICEF
Leilua continued with her advocacy work at the CRC Committee meeting where she joined SVSG President Siliniu Lina Chang and other relevant partners during the UNICEF Talanoa Session.

While Siliniu focused on SVSG’s child protection journey and the challenges in addressing the social norms surrounding the reporting and acceptance of violence, Leilua encouraged the audience to be the voice of the children silenced by fear.

Being an ambassador for the abused children was evident by the maturity and the confidence Leilua speaks in public gatherings. On this particular day, her siblings from the Campus joined in raising the children’s voices as they painted the Talanoa venue with the colour of hope.
All around Samoa on this day, our supporting community got behind the children’s message as they sought answers to the questions:

- What are my rights?
- Who protects my rights?
- How are my rights protected?
- Do I have any rights?

Painting the community yellow with posters and t-shirts is SVSG’s community awareness on the rights of the child while Samoa played host to the 84th Extraordinary Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

It has been a Positive Movement that supported a child’s rights to protection from abuse and neglect as per the focus of the Talanoa Session, coordinated by UNICEF and the Government of Samoa.

At the end of the day, we as a community had put the spotlight on the children and the importance of ensuring that their rights are protected.

### 3.2 Community Awareness Tours

In preparing the children for their return home to immediate and extended families once their court cases are completed, they are taken on community awareness tours.

The whole idea is to familiarize the children with their normal way of life outside of the Campus; this includes going back to school, to church and their general engagement with the community.

In March, the children attended the Stations of the Cross at the Sinamoga Catholic Church, as part of their community awareness tour. It was an opportunity for the children to present the congregation with beautiful candle holders for the church, bought from the children’s livelihood program savings. Thank you to the Priests, the Catechist and the congregation at Sinamoga for the donation of food and toiletry supplies you presented for the children.