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

Child Protection services inclusive of children with disabilities

Pacific Women Regional Forum on Women Economic Empowerment, Fiji
May has been a period marked by achievements that far outweigh the challenges inherent in the work of a support service organisation. It also saw opportunities for growth, learning and innovative approaches to our work.

With a link directly to community development, while indirectly linked with the law and justice sector, the health and education sectors, we sometimes feel like we are in the midst of a storm.

The rise in sexual abuse affecting girls age 10 – 16 years old is an epidemic; the lost children from broken families that ended up as troubled teens eventually finds their way to our door; and the devastating effect of anger when it consumes ones conscious always ends up in violence.

But we always strive to stay one step ahead of violence and its effects on our families. As such, it is a rewarding feeling to see the children survivors like Leilua Lino, the finalist for the 2018 Children’s Peace Prize Award, becoming part of the support team in her role as an advocate for the Positive Movement campaign; Congratulating unemployed youth as they successfully completed a career counselling training; Empowering our young men in the best practices to engage men and boys to end violence against women; Assisting underprivileged families access clean water while supporting the literacy of our young children.

With the growing concern on the effects of climate change to our everyday lives and humanity, we are excited of the interest from the SVSG village representatives and the empowered nofotane women to learn how they can help out.

The diversity of our service is therefore obvious despite the limited resources; the blessings however, are in abundance.

We therefore thank each and every one of our supporting partners, donor agencies, families and friends for putting up with our persistent manner, all for the sake of saving lives.

______________________________
Georgina Lui
Chair, SVSG Board
1. FAMILY VIOLENCE

A total of 39 new cases were lodged with SVSG during May; 25 cases with the Upolu Office and 14 cases lodged with the Tuasivi Office. April recorded a total of 67 cases, so there is a substantial reduction of 42% or 28 less new cases lodged in May compared to April. It is too early to draw any conclusions from the analysis of cases in relations to this substantial decrease and SVSG will continue to monitor this for any trend.

Of the total 39 new cases lodged, domestic violence still dominates the type of assistance sought:

- 10 were domestic violence cases involving mothers;
- 8 were mediation and counselling support for families;
- 7 were cases directly involving children ages 13 – 18 years old; 4 sexual, 1 child abuses and 2 troubled children;
- 7 were maintenance and custody cases;
- 5 were welfare assistance;
- 2 attempted suicide; and

In May, there were 6 mothers and 10 children assisted with their applications for Court protection orders. At the Family Court in May, more offenders of violence were referred to SVSG for counselling support, some of whom were the same offenders in which SVSG assisted the mothers and their children with, when applying to the Court for protection orders.

Most notable during May is the number of young mothers age 21 – 30 seeking assistance with SVSG for maintenance and custody for their children. The trend in having broken families at such young ages is a concern. And SVSG is looking at ways to assist the young mothers cope with these situations, while looking out for the best interest of the children affected.

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

06.05.19: Incest Rape
A 15 year old incest rape victim had her life changed overnight when her half-brother raped her. The mother was out playing bingo during all the three occasions when the victim was raped. She was threatened thus she remained silent until a family member reported the matter to the Police. While the Police carried out its investigation, the victim was referred to SVSG for shelter assistance.
In April, the Sacred Heart College of Auckland New Zealand visited the Campus of Hope for the first time. The school donated ST1,000 and miscellaneous supplies for the children. As per SVSG’s usual accountability process, we are reprinting herein the acquittal of this kind donation by the School.

The School also made an additional donation of ST1,000 at the SVSG Office and this will be acquitted accordingly once funds have been fully utilized.

Thank you so much to the students, teachers and the parents for the generous donation. God bless!

She was severely traumatized upon admission to the shelter; screaming in her sleep while keeping to herself for quite a while. SVSG’s Psychosocial Officer kept her on a 24/7 support watch for 2 weeks until she started to open up. Our brave child has a long road ahead of her towards recovery.

08.05.19: Troubled Child
The effects of growing up in a broken family had taken its toll on a 14 year old child who kept running away from one carer after another. The Police came across him walking along the outskirt of a village in rural Savaii and picked him up. He was referred to SVSG for assistance where a relative who used to care for him was contacted. She immediately came to SVSG’s office where she was reunited with the child she once looked after before he took off with other teenage boys. The troubled child is now safe with his relatives; he is attending school, Sunday school and church on Sundays; he is also an active member of the church choir. Such positive environment is important in shaping the life of this once troubled child.

23.05.19: Maintenance
A 29 year old housewife sought assistance with SVSG for maintenance to support herself and her 4 children ages 8, 6, 4 and 1. Her husband travelled to New Zealand earlier this year under the seasonal workers scheme with the hope of assisting with the family’s welfare and its development. However, six months later, the housewife not only lost her husband to another woman he had an affair with, but now she is struggling to raise their 4 children. While SVSG had referred the matter to the Ministry of Justice for their usual assistance with maintenance cases, the young mother has been encouraged to join the newly self-employed nofotane women in her village, who can help her utilize her weaving skills to earn an income for herself and her children.

The diversity of cases requiring SVSG’s assistance speaks volume of the support service we provide. Even extreme cases such as attempted suicide, we tried to help the best way we can. As for the bulk of the welfare cases such assistance with the children’s education, access to clean water, advocating for medical assistance in severe cases and many others, we are calling on any one who is willing to work with us in this area to join us and be a part of the difference we are making in our people’s lives.

For immediate support, please call the 800-7874 Help Line.
It is FREE and it is a 24-hour service.
With donations from Eli & Patty Perez and family of Sydney Australia, we were able to put up another Help Line Signboard just outside the Faleolo International Airport entrance to remind our people that help is just a phone call away.

Thank you Eli and Patty for supporting the visibility of our services out there in the community.

2. CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

The cases involving children reported to SVSG in May highlighted the diverse nature of our child protection work. From abused children to abandoned, troubled and children from broken families, SVSG’s ultimate concern is for the child’s safety.

Most notable is the efficiency in which we provided child protection services with the support of the community. SVSG therefore commended the village representatives and family members who spoke out on behalf of the victims against the social norms surrounding violence being a private matter; the support from the Police, the church leaders and extended families of the children involved.

There were 8 children assisted with their court cases, both at the Family Court for the physically abused children and at the Supreme Court for the sexually abused children. 6 of these cases were completed successfully while the other 2 were postponed to be heard later on this year.

With the diversity of SVSG’s child protection work, it was therefore most fitting that the Group’s revised Child Protection Policy was finalized in May. Thank you so much Shelley Casey, the UNICEF Regional Consultant who assisted us with the review. UNICEF Pacific is credited for the extent in which SVSG is now able to address a wider range of child protection issues affecting the children of Samoa.

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 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 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;
- Motuipua Dr. Aisoli Vaai of the Saleufi Medical Clinic, for the children’s free medical consultation;
- Taulealeausumai Dr. Titi Lamese of the Ola Fou Clinic, for the children’s free medical consultation; and
- Zhenna Chan Mow-Fa’auiga of the Niu Pharmacy for the children’s free medication supplies
- To the churches, villages and individuals that donated food and miscellaneous supplies to assist with the children’s daily needs;

Thank You!
Thank you to all those who placed a dollar or two inside SVSG’s donation box located at the departure area at the Faleolo International Airport.

Collection from the donation box helps SVSG pay for the daily maintenance required for the Campus of Hope.

A total of ST1,252.48 was collected when we opened the box in May.
Fa’afetai, Fa’afetai, Fa’afetai
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 May, SVSG acknowledges with gratitude and appreciation the kindness of the following donors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donors</th>
<th>Donation for:</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peace Chapel Christian Fellowship</td>
<td>Court Office</td>
<td>300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pastor Palolo Paulo of Sydney Australia</td>
<td>Campus of Hope</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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In Kind:
Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints: towels, linen, new born kit
Fiu Leaupepe of Fasitoo-uta: 1 ctn. tinned fish, 1 box noodles, 1 bag rice
Melinda Ah Chong: mat
Pastor Palolo Paulo: 2 bags rice, 1 bag sugar, 1 ctn. tinned fish, oil, lollies
Bishop Epafara Isaia of Tulaele Stake of the LDS: 4 aufai, 5 popo
Aokuso Irae Mikaele: 4 aufai
Sue Rasmussen: 1 box milk, 6 boxes weet bix

Rosary at Our Lady of Fatima Grotto- Apia
It is always a serene moment to just sit and take in the beautiful sunset every Tuesdays as the children of hope joined the Rosary at Our Lady of Fatima Grotto at Mulivai.

The children always look forward to their time with Our Lady of Fatima, and their singing draws the attention of the parishioners at the Cathedral nearby.

Through this community engagement, the children have been part of the blessings to the devoted mothers that oversee the hospitality for the visitors at the Grotto. Thank you Epi Smith, Elizabeth Pereira, Sera Devoe, Mrs. Leung Wai to name a few, for the fellowship with the children, and for hosting them for tea every Tuesday evenings after the Rosary.

2.1 Campus of Hope
The success of SVSG’s rehabilitation program continued to influence the recovery process for the current residence of the Campus. The smiles on the faces of some of the children with disabilities under our care say it all.

From the outside, the Campus is merely a fenced off area inside the National Sports Complex at Tuanaimato. However, the place is the safe haven to 87 abused and abandoned children it looked after in May [7 babies ages 1 month – 2 years; 7 boys ages 3 – 12 years old; 73 girls ages 3 – 19 years old], and many more who have been successfully reintegrated while making room for potential new residence.

The Campus remains the only shelter facility available in Samoa for children survivors of gender based violence, neglect and more recently, children and new born babies from underprivileged families whose mothers continued to bear children due to the lack of access to family planning. Some of these children have very severe medical conditions that saw us at the hospital late at night or early morning whenever they require medical attention.

But we smile our way through it all, knowing that we are making a difference in our children’s lives.

There were six new admissions to the Campus of Hope shelter facility in May; a 2 month old baby and her 21 year old mother who is a rape victim; plus 4 victims of sexual abuse age 14 – 16. And God’s provision has been sufficient for us to cater for the children’s needs:
LDS Apia West Stake

The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints continues with its Good Samaritan work at the Campus. In May, the LDS Apia West Stake cleaned up the children’s compound as part of the Church’s contribution towards supporting the Campus. Thank you President Simon Vaoifi, Bishop Malaga Faasavalu and the congregation for the great ministering work.

Anytime Fitness Christchurch, NZ

The Club Manager for the Anytime Fitness Centre with the assistance of friends and relatives in Christchurch put together donation of supplies for the babies cared for at the House of Blessing nursery at the Campus.

Tania presented these to SVSG during her visit in May. Thank you Tania for coordinating this donation drive; please relay our gratitude and appreciation to all your families and friends who assisted you with this.

Fijian Supporters

Mr. Tomasi Rokoqica and family donated clothes for the children in May.

Currently working in Samoa, our Fijian supporters were all smiles when they presented their contribution to support the children under our care. Vinaka Vakalevu

Grammy Award Winner Joss Stone

The children were treated not only to live music but also to an entertaining Samoan Siva by the soulful artist Joss Stone at the Campus in May.

The Grammy award-winning singer was in Samoa as part of her world tour, and included in her program while in Samoa was spending time with the children of hope. She later invited the older girls to enjoy a night of music and entertainment at the Funway Park that evening.
Career Counselling Training with the ILO

More than 60 unemployed youths successfully completed a 2-day Career Counseling Training coordinated by the SVSG Juniors in May, in partnership with the International Labor Organization.

The youth members were from the 25 youth groups under the umbrella of the SVSG Juniors, inclusive of the youths from the Samoa Fa’afafine Association and the Samoa Spinal Network.

The Career Counseling Training was facilitated by Mr. Edward Bernard, an HR practitioner with a wealth of experience in professional development programs who is currently a Senior Program Assistant with the ILO Regional Office Suva.

The training completed with certificate presentation that highlighted the inclusive support services by SVSG as it included the LGBTQ+ community and our other alliances with disabilities.

The youth ended the 2-days training in style by treating the trainers and the trainees to entertainment courtesy of the SVSG Junior Youth Band.

A grant of USD5,000 (ST13,481.00) from the ILO enabled SVSG to coordinate a successful Career Counselling Training program.

SVSG therefore acknowledged Father Muliau Stowers, head of the Apia Parish Catholic Church for the beautiful opening prayer, and Afamasaga Faauiga Mulitalo, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Women, Community & Social Development for the key note address.

Thank you Tomasi Peni, the ILO National Coordinator (Samoa) for supporting SVSG’s proposal and Mr. Edward Bernard for making the training an enjoyable empowerment program for the youth.

Thank you Joss Stone for spending time with the children while in Samoa. Seeing you enjoying the children’s company was amazing.

Thank you also to Michael Hickey and Lole Usoalii for coordinating the visit by the renowned singer to the Campus.

Policewoman from Victoria Australia

The frequent traveller and Police officer on the streets of Victoria Australia Ms. Jo Mikarna stopped by the SVSG office in May with donations for the children of hope.

Thank you Jo for remembering the children of hope in your charitable work for the people of Samoa. Thank you also to the supporting community in Victoria who assisted Jo Mikarna in putting together this donation.

Newlyweds Visited the Campus

Steve & Sarah from New Zealand were in Samoa for their honeymoon in May and to visit the children of hope. The trip was planned way back in January when Sarah enquired with SVSG for an opportunity to visit the children: “Sarah here from New Zealand, we are planning a trip to Samoa in May & are wondering if we can help.

We don’t plan to be in Samoa for long, but wonder if we can bring things to help your wonderful group or/and come to visit to spend some time with the amazing children at your facility?”

The newlywed entertained the children during their visit, and later presented ST3,195.99 raised during a fundraising drive with their families and friends in NZ for the children of hope. Wishing you both happiness and blessings Steve & Sarah. Thank you also to families and friends that supported your fundraising event for the children.
Reverend Visitors from Australia

Home is where the heart is, which described the feeling expressed by Reverend Konelio & Selela of the Congregational Christian Church of Perth, and Reverend Aviti & Saiaga Etuale of the CCC Melbourne Australia when they met the children of hope.

The reverends and their faletua were attending the CCCS Annual Conference at Malua and they took time out to present donations from their respective communities in Australia to support SVSG’s work for the children.

Faletua Selela is a teacher at Sowilo Community High School in Perth and she presented donations of $500.00 on behalf of the school.

The Pulega Melbourne East led by Rev. Elder Aviti & Faletua presented food supplies donated by their congregation for the children. Thank you so much to the communities in Melbourne and Perth for your support.

Bradford Institute of Advance Education (BIAE), Australia

Vaa Alofipo, the Samoan Director of the BIAE accompanied Mr. Tony Pignata and Ms. Chris Barrett from the Institute in Australia to visit the children. The team was in Samoa for the graduation of the third class from the Certificate III in Community Services from the local branch of the Institute in Samoa.

SVSG is looking forward to having some of the older girls at the Campus include in the community training programs offered by the BIAE in Samoa.

Thank you Tony, Chris and the Bradford Institute of Advance Education for the donation of AUD1,000 as well as various uniforms for the children presented during the visit.

According to Jens Van Tricht, the founder of the Emancipator and the host of the Study Tour in Netherlands, “The impact that we have as six organizations – with the limited funding and resources we have – is small while facing this huge challenge. But we believe that both men and women will benefit from gender justice."

The ERASMUS+ project ‘Breaking the Cycle: Engaging men and boys for promoting gender equality and ending violence against women’ is implemented by organizations from six countries with extensive experience in the field including:

1. CENTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (CHSJ), INDIA
2. CENTRO RURAL JOVEN VIDA (CERUJOVI), SPAIN
3. DIPUTACIÓN PROVINCIAL DE CÁCERES, SPAIN
4. EMANCIPATOR, NETHERLANDS
5. FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATIVE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT LTD. (FISD), SRI LANKA
6. SAMOA VICTIM SUPPORT GROUP INC. (SVSG), SAMOA
7. YOUTH FIRST, MADAGASCAR

Catching up with Former Volunteer

And while in Amsterdam, a former volunteer with SVSG in 2014 and a Child Protection worker, Ms. Judith Wouters met up with Franziska and Mane.

Thank you Judith for taking the boys out while attending the Study Tour. You are a reminder to us that as part of the SVSG family, we will are always be connected.
Clean Water Project
The underprivileged members of the community at the Falealili area were the recipients of 1,000 water tanks under the Clean Water Project by the SVSG Juniors. In partnership with the business community, 5 families received water tanks from the Project in May. One of them is the Leilua family of Falealili.

The youngest member of the Leilua family at Falealili, 5 year old Tavita Leilua will no longer struggle to carry buckets of water from the Puna o Tala pool to assist with his family’s daily needs, thanks to the water tank donated by the Ponifasio Lawyers, le Aute Gas and Federal Pacific Finance. Assessments are continuing for the families that requested welfare assistance with SVSG, specifically for clean water and through the generosity of our supporters here and abroad, the SVSG Junior is able to help these families access clean water.

Netherlands Study Tour
The third part of the 12 months project titled: “Breaking the Cycle – Men & Boys Engage to End Violence Against Women”, was a Study Tour in Netherlands. This followed on from the Initial Meeting in Apia, Samoa in January and the Seminar in New Delhi in March.

From 7 – 13 May, two of the SVSG Junior youth members and staff for SVSG, Mr. Franziska Finafinau and Mr. Mane Su’a represented SVSG to the Netherlands Study Tour.

Organized with the aim of having a peer-review to provide participants with an insight of how specialised institutions and organisations are actively working in youth advocacy and engaging young men for gender equality, the youth representatives from Samoa were excited of learning about good practices on ending gender based violence, the masculinity view and the social norms surrounding it.

Bank of the South Pacific Community Project
Every year, the BSP donates to the community by way of a community project to its choice of charity. In 2016, the BSP’s community project was to build a kitchen facility for the children’s hall at the Campus.

The end of May therefore saw the BSP’s Business Manager, Maiava Iaeli Tovia-Leota meeting up with the SVSG President at the Campus to discuss another project for the children’s residence that the Bank can help out with.

An extension to the children’s kitchen facility will be the focus of the BSP’s community project this year. Thank you Taitu’uga Maryann Lameko-Vaai, the Country Manager (Samoa), for once again choosing the children of hope as the beneficiaries of the Bank’s community project this year.

2.2 School of Hope
A total of 80 students attended the School of Hope in May; 7 boys ages 3 – 12 years old and 73 girls ages 3 – 19 years old.

Full time teachers and skills trainers make up the teaching staff at the School of Hope, fully funded by the Ministry of Education, Sports & Culture. The school is well catered for with stationeries and reading books donated by the general public and our visiting families and friends from overseas.

Normal classes are from 8.30am to 2.00pm including the children with disabilities. In the afternoon, the older girls led by the finalist for the 2018 International Children’s Peace Prize Award, Leilua Lino assisted with the younger children’s reading. Thank you Jane Vaafusuaga of Faleaseela for donating one of the reading books called ‘A gift for Ana’ in which the young ones loved hearing Leilua reading it to them.

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
2.3 Child Vendors – The Hot Soup Skill Building Training

Innovative is the word that describes the progress of the skill building training for the children who used to sell on the streets, but now attending the Hot Soup Training program by SVSG. Old tyres are turned into pot plant holders or coffee tables with bright colours that highlight the positive vibrant atmosphere at the training centre.

The 12 months project funded by the US Embassy Apia has proven beneficial for the children; putting close to 20 child vendors back to the classroom in the mainstream education, while continuing to clear up the streets of the Vaitele Industrial area from child vendors.

There is a lot more work to be done in order to address the growing child labour problem in Samoa, and while the current program takes the children out of the streets, SVSG is looking at holding the parents accountable for the well-being of their families, while the children attend school as they rightly deserve.

2.4 ECPAT International

The initial results of a survey by ECPAT International to gather the perceptions of frontline welfare workers on the sexual exploitation of children (SEC) in the Pacific will be out by June 2019.

The survey was carried for welfare workers in seven Pacific countries including Samoa, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Tonga and Kiribati. The results will offer a snapshot of the SEC in the Pacific, and key issues affecting children.

SVSG is looking forward to the results of the survey given its child protection role through:
(1) the residence of the Campus of Hope attesting to both boys and girls being victims of gender based violence;
(2) the horrific cases of incest at the Supreme Court which speaks volume of family members being perpetrators against their own children; and
(3) the increasing number of child vendors on our streets which exposed them to multiple level of vulnerability to sexual exploitation.

8. SVSG JUNIORS

The youth sub-group of SVSG had their work cut out for them in May and the members did a very good job not only in continuing with their community projects, but there was also time for capacity building through training.

Faleapuna Primary School Library

With the support from Aeau Chris Hazelman, Aaone Tanumafili, Fetu Sakaria, Meti Leolahi, Coralie Allen of Sydney Australia and many others, the SVSG Juniors were able to deliver reading books and school materials for the Faleapuna Primary School library.

The Principal, teachers and students were all smiles when the donation was presented to them early in May.

This is an ongoing project by the SVSG Juniors so please bring your old or new books to support our efforts to encourage our young ones to read.

SVSG Junior Hope Band

The youth members also came together in May to form the SVSG Junior Hope Band.

Coming from very different backgrounds and with very different personalities, the band was one way in which the SVSG Junior came together to achieve a group identity; that of engendering hope.

Hope not only to each other as youths, but most importantly, hope for the children residence at the Campus of Hope.

Well done SVSG Junior!
7. THE CHANGEMAKER PROJECT

As one of the finalists for the 2018 International Children’s Peace Prize Award with the Kids Right Foundation of Netherlands, Ms. Leilua Lino had the opportunity to apply for funding to support any project she currently carries out with the children.

May therefore saw the approval of a 12 months project for Leilua titled: ‘Making a Change – One Child at a Time’, by the Kids Right Foundation.

As a Changemaker, Leilua will oversee a mentorship program where youth members of the SVSG Junior will buddy up with children survivors of gender based violence age 8 – 10 years old and who are residence of the Campus of Hope.

Leilua selected this particular age group as she was 9 years old when she was raped.

Therefore, as a survivor, Leilua knew exactly how she grew up with the misconception that her elders are always right and that her being abused is justified. ‘Making a Change – One Child at a Time’, will see Leilua working with the young victims to influence a change in mindsets towards blaming themselves for the wrong that was committed against them.

Thank you Kids Right for the grant of €1,000 received into our account in May to finance Leilua’s project.

3. ADVOCACY PROGRAMS FOR OFFENDERS OF VIOLENCE

May started with a total of 77 participants to the various Advocacy Programs for offenders of violence referred from the Family & Youth Courts; 7 youths, 24 women and 46 men. An addition 12 men and 3 women were referred from the Courts in May, taking the total number of participants to SVSG’s anger management program to 92.

Of the 12 new referrals under the Men’s Advocacy Program in May, 6 are unemployed while the other 6 are employed (including a church minister). What we have noted is that no one is immune to Anger, even the church leaders are no exception.

By the end of May, 44 men, 23 women and 7 youths remain in the Advocacy Program as 2 men and 1 woman completed their programs in May.

The 44 men continued to be part of the ‘Changing Norms of Masculinity’ session incorporated into the Men’s Anger Management program. The impact has been remarkable as follow up assessment found that there have been small changes in the domestic and personal lives of the men, according to their wives.

However, the highlight for the Advocacy program in May was how the Restorative Justice system addressed a family violence situation.

Recalled in the February highlighted cases how an 18 year old pregnant teen was assaulted by her father. Her grandfather called SVSG on the Help Line for assistance; the Police took up the case with the father while the 18 year old was referred to SVSG for shelter care.

The father was later referred by the Family Court to SVSG’s Advocacy Program. Half way through the duration of the father’s program with SVSG, he requested to see his daughter and this was granted.

In front of all the participants, the father apologized to his daughter. It was an emotional reconciliation as the remorseful father embraced his daughter.
She has such a forgiving heart this child, and a brave one at that. Because she has not only gone through a successful birthing earlier this month but she has found it in her heart to forgive her father. The father and daughter reconciliation attested to how the Family Courts together with the restorative justice as per SVSG’s Advocacy Program, assisted in restoring peace and reconciling differences in family violence situations.

With the other male offenders of violence bearing witness to the daughter embracing her father with a forgiving heart, they were curious to see for themselves the Campus where this child has been rehabilitated to a stronger young woman. Today, the men and women offenders of violence referred from the Family Court have signed up as volunteers for SVSG, and have assisted with the children of hope’s daily needs through donation of food and other supplies.

4. **SVSG VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES**

May had been recorded as one of the busiest months for the SVSG village representatives not only in assisting our support services out there in the community, but also in coordinating the various events such as the Youth’s Career Counselling Training, the Clean Water Project and the Advocacy Program to name a few.

Towards the end of May, the President and some of the staff travelled to Savaii on the request from the SVSG village representatives to meet.

And we were taken by the surprise by what the SVSG village reps. and the empowered nofoante women had in mind. Together, they raised their concern about climate change which means that our people are keeping up to date with the growing need for everyone to be climate resilience.

They wanted to learn more on ways they can help out with this rising problem in their daily lives. Those living near the sea and in low lying areas are scared of the sea level rising. For those living further inland, they wanted to know how planting more trees will assist with the problem.

The church doors were even opened on after the evening services on Sundays to allow Leilua the opportunity to share on her life saving mission. And she is flourishing as a matured and confident ambassador of the Positive Movement.

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 Campaign.

**The Positive Movement Saved My Life**

“When Leilua shared her story of abuse at our school, I looked at her in shock as she was speaking directly at me. I never blinked but stared right back at her with tears in my eyes. Leilua’s problem was the same as mine, the only difference is, Leilua spoke out, and I was still silenced by fear, and ashamed of what people might say.” Girl Survivor

This is the story of a 14 year old victim of sexual abuse who finally had the courage to speak out about her dilemma after hearing Leilua’s sharing at her school. The Girl Survivor attends a primary school in the central north coast of Upolu that was visited by the SVSG Positive Movement Campaign fronted by Ms. Leilua Lino. According to the Girl Survivor “the Positive Movement Campaign saved my life.”

Since 2017, the Girl Survivor had been sexually abused in the home; first by her uncle and later by her step father. Upon hearing Leilua’s story, the Girl Survivor confided to her cousin, who in turn referred the matter to SVSG. The Girl Survivor is now under SVSG’s shelter care while the matter has been referred to the Police.
The Positive Movement

May saw the face of the Positive Movement Campaign Ms. Leilua Lino on the road; innovating the message of the Positive Movement she is fronting. “If I Can Do It, You Can Too – We Owe it To Ourselves to Think Positive.

She visited schools including the Marist Brothers School at Mulivai, the St. Mary’s School Savalalo, the Apia Primary, the Vaitele Primary School, the Lauili Primary School, the St. Joan of Arc Leulumoega, Leulumoega Fou Primary, Lutuanuu Primary, St. Paul College, the Maritime School, and government ministries; reaching more than 3,000 primary school children and 2,000 more adults and youths.

Constable Malia Lino has been a policewoman for eight years now and has a message for all women of Samoa. Working under the CID of the Ministry of Police she says it is a challenging yet a passionate task by helping the vulnerable and the hopeless victims of sexual violence cases. She encourages women to take up this important career and believes that if she can do it any woman can....

Even the Management & Staff of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority got behind the Positive Movement campaign by sharing what they do for the people of Samoa. These fire fighters believe that if they can help save lives, anyone can too!

The Office is now working on how to put into action the request from the SVSG village representatives and the empowered nofotane women to be part of the conversation on ways to address climate change.

It is through these types of initiatives that continue to build SVSG. We listen because it’s the voices of the people in the village that represent the collective need of our people. And SVSG is only glad to find ways to help, to empower and to inform our people better.

As a strong volunteer network in the village community, the SVSG village representatives are hereby acknowledged for their commitment to go that extra mile to save a life:

31.05.19: Attempted Suicide
SVSG received an email from the Duty Manager of a local hotel requesting assistance for one of the guests attempting to commit suicide. It was late Friday afternoon but SVSG’s Response Team members including the President, a Psychologist, a Counsellor and a Case Officer were immediately at hotel to assess the situation. The victim was having marital problems with her ex-husband while at the same time she has been abused by a very aggressive partner. SVSG’s Response Team spent the night at the hotel to ensure that the victim was calm and out of danger.

The commitment from the SVSG village representative for Leauvaa, Susitina Lene who is also one of the counsellors for the Women’s Advocacy Program is therefore acknowledged with appreciation.

Thank you so much Susi for being such a vibrant village representative.

Despite your many commitments to the village and the church, you always take on your responsibility as an SVSG village representative with pride. Malo le tautua!
5. THE NOFOTANE WOMEN
The ‘Nofotane’ brand continued to make a name for itself in the community, while orders being placed by our supporting partners abroad are sustaining the economically empowered women further.

Cutting Edge Conference in New Zealand [600 lopa lanyards]

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Talofa lava Lina and Sam

I hope you’re both well. I have had another request from Cutting Edge conference organisers for Lopa and bead lanyards. They loved the lopa lanyards the Nofotane ladies made last year that they have requested them again.

Mother’s Day Market with the Ministry of Women, Community & Social Development

The nofotane women also attracted the attention of the local community during the 2-days market day organized by the MWCS for Mother’s Day. Thank you Afamasaga Faauliga Mulitalo, CEO for the MWCS for the invitation to showcase the nofotane women’s products at this event.

Clean up Day Market with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

The nofotane women also took part in the river and town clean up events in May. Organised by the SPREP, the women helped out with cleaning around the town area and along the seawall, and later enjoyed the festivities at the Malaefatu Reserve where their products attracted the attention of the environmentalists, especially the environmentally friendly colourful ‘trash hand bag’ made from used coffee mix sachets. Thank you Ms. Deborah Buckley of SPREP for encouraging the nofotane women to be part of these community events.

Pacific Women Regional Learning Forum on Women’s Economic Empowerment, 27-30 May 2019, Suva, Fiji

The SVSG Communication’s Officer represented the Group at a Regional Learning Forum on Women’s Economic Empowerment held in Suva Fiji from 27 – 30 May 2019.

Coordinated by the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development, the Forum brings together frontline organisations in Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) in the Pacific to share approaches, experiences, practices and lessons learnt, as Pacific women are defining WEE for themselves despite the many challenges.

And SVSG is in tune with these challenges as it brought out the best in its approach in weaving our way through the village community, working with our culture to achieve the economic empowerment of the nofotane women.

As for the disturbing social norm at the intersection between violence against women and women’s economic empowerment, SVSG had taken WEE as an intervention strategy to address violence experienced by the nofotane women. And such strategies saw SVSG’s programs blending in with our traditional culture and way of life.

From the Pacific Women’s Regional Forum, it is believed that in progressing and sustaining WEE, the Pacific should get the women and the youth involved. SVSG is therefore on the right track to address gender inequality issues affecting nofotane women.

Thank you Kymberley Kepore, Team Leader, Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Support Unit for this opportunity for SVSG to be part of the regional conversation on Women’s Economic Empowerment.