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 as it becomes the voice of our people in need:

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

Sponsored by:

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Government of Samoa
UN Women
Digicel
UNICEF
APTCC
Hyundai
Ola Fou Clinic
Saleufi Medical Clinic

Mari’s Bakery
KATINA MISSIONS

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

Sponsored by:
SVSG has engaged the support of the Little Angels Foundation of New Zealand to provide welfare assistance to our vulnerable children.
Talofa Lava

We have gone through the first half of 2017, and we continue to count our blessings thus far, thanks to the merciful love of our Heavenly Father, who has been our guide, our provider and our source of strength.

I trust this Edition of the Engage Newsletter also reaches you and your families in good health. Thank you to those who took time to read our First Edition and commented on the name change. I also commended those who were “impressed, encouraged and inspired” by the informative Engage Newsletter. Thank you for the encouragement from the word of God. “Eph 2:10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

SVSG’s support services during the months of March and April have seen a community, slowly coming to engage in the discussions of the issues affecting our people, and contribute to support each other in addressing these issues. Most notable was the revival of the SVSG Juniors, our youth, who are now engaging more with other young people, to reach out and to take this work further.

New partners both here and abroad have been engaged to support our work, while existing partnerships have been strengthened. Faafetai, Faafetai, Faafetai tele lava.

It has been a privilege for all of us here at SVSG to be the voice for the voiceless, and serving our community in need. And we would not be able to do all these without your support and your prayers.

So as our journey continues to the final half of this year, lets pray for God’s grace upon us all, so that our families will be safe from harms way.

God bless!

Georgina Lui
Chairperson of the SVSG Board
1. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Acts of violence against mothers and children within their own homes dominates SVSG’s support work during March and April, accounting for 54% of the 107 total cases lodged. These are the most vulnerable and at SVSG, the priority has been and always will be, to protect them from further abuse, and to ensure their safety. From these 107 cases, SVSG assisted a total of 222 children. This is a huge amount and a cause for concern.

SVSG support through advocating for and filing Protection Orders to the Courts on the children’s behalf and providing temporary shelters at the Campus of Hope. For a woman survivor of violence, she is not alone, as her children will be affected. And seeing children sleeping at the SVSG office is normal as their mothers went through the Protection Order process for their safety.

During the period of March and April 2017, SVSG lodged with the Family Court 32 applications for family protection orders, for 71 children and 31 mothers. A total of 102 abused mothers and vulnerable children were advocated for by SVSG with the Courts during the period. 53% of the 32 applications for family protection orders lodged with the Courts for March and April, were for cases of violence referred from the Police Domestic Violence Unit for SVSG to apply for protection orders.

SVSG does not receive any form of assistance for this aspect of its work except for salaries paid by UNICEF for the protection of children. The current Small Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) with UNICEF Pacific will end in September 2017, however, there continues to be a need for this funding assistance. The statistics on the number of children reached by SVSG through its Child Protection work from July 2015 when the agreement was signed, to date, speaks volume for this need.

Through the Engage Edition, SVSG hopes this will be a form of communication where various members of the community are engaged into discussions and gain better understanding of the issues in our community, so that they may also engage into the community and contribute to support each other.

In Kind Donations:

The following donors have donated in kind towards the work of SVSG during March and April.

- CCK Trading: 2 x packets of coffee/1 x sack of clothes
- Alisa Tiaina of Tokelau: 1 bag clothes, puzzles, DVDs
- Heperona Toleafoa: bag of clothes for the shelter
- Samoa Police Women Advisory Network: - 10 bags clothes, 9 boxes noodles, 8 doz. soap, 2 pkt rice, taro, banana, coconut
- Aloema Faasavalu Taatuli of SVSG (Sydney): baby clothes
- Florence Schwalger of Apia Pharmacy: box of clothes
- Taniya Pepe of SVSG (Queensland): stationery supplies
- Melissa & Glen Peterson of Auckland: rugby shoes and toys
- Maya Copcraft of Vaoala: 3 bags of clothes
- Bronwen Burfitt: diapers, clothes, books, baby formula

A special thank you to Toleafoa Elon Betham and the team at Le Aute Gas for 2 x monthly gas refills for the House of Blessings.

Thank you also to Felise Sam Chong and the team at Origin Energy for the gas refill supplies for the House of Hope. Your prompt response to our call for maintenance is greatly appreciated.

Whatever you have donated or provided to support the work of SVSG, we humbly accept them for they were from the goodness of your hearts. Thank you most kindly for your generosity.

“Our sacrifice is to keep offering praise to God in the name of Jesus. But don’t forget to help others and to share your possessions with them. This too is like offering a sacrifice that pleases God.”

Hebrews 13: 15-16
FINANCIAL & IN KIND DONATIONS

SVSG would not have been able to become the voice for our people in need of help, without the financial and in kind donation from our network of supporters.

Financial Donations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donors</th>
<th>Donation for</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peace Chapel Christian Fellowship</td>
<td>Office</td>
<td>600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations for Office</td>
<td></td>
<td>600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Tofilau</td>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>149.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Pouesi</td>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>484.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVSG (Sydney) Friends of Hope</td>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations for Shelter</td>
<td></td>
<td>733.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Out of the total donations received in March and April:
- $733.20 was specifically donated for the shelters; and
- $600.00 was donated to assist with running the SVSG office

It is therefore apparent that SVSG struggles to meet the running expenses to keep its office doors open and at $600 for two months, this is stretched to cover telephones, cash power, fuel, stationeries, and not including salaries for the staff.

Thank you so much to all of you who have contributed financially towards the work of SVSG in March & April.

Case Highlights - Family Violence & Child Abuse

The ugly bruises were hidden beneath his school uniform, but the pain could still be seen in his eyes. This alerted a School Principal who contacted SVSG via the Help Line, and immediately, the 14 year old was brought into the SVSG office. Gone was the brave face he struggled to maintain, and in its place was a broken child, a victim of child abuse at the hands of his own mother. For his safety, SVSG applied for a Protection Order before he was referred to the Campus of Hope. Medical support was the priority as well as counselling, and in time, his resilience showed by his smile, his ability to engage with the other children survivors at the Campus of Hope.

As we go to print, our young survivor had impressed the Family Court with his bravery, as he stood tall in court and forgave his mother for the abuse. In reviewing the IPO, the Courts had tasked SVSG with monitoring the child as he was placed back with his family. When saying goodbye, our hero left SVSG President, who is ‘Mama Lina’ to the hundreds children who have gone through the Campus of Hope shelter facilities, a thank you note.

This is reward for our work.
Case Highlights - Sexual Abuse
Two sisters age 10 and 13 were evacuated from their home for their own safety late March. They were the latest victims of sexual violation from their own relatives; one was the mother’s brother and the other was the father’s cousin. While the physical relocation into the Campus of Hope shelter facilities was just the first of the many disruptions in these young girls lives’, the main concern for SVSG is the emotional trauma affecting the sisters as their home and their biological parents could no longer become their safe haven.

Without the diligent work of an 82 year old SVSG village representative, we would not be able to save these young lives. SVSG applied for Protection Orders for the sisters against the perpetrators for the alleged offending, and against the girls parents for their negligence.

In both cases, it was not the children who reported the matter to SVSG simply because they were afraid, but those outside of the family who showed that they care:

- A Principal who could have turned a blind eye to visible signs of abuse on one of his students; and
- An SVSG village representative who could have minded his own business yet was suspicious of 2 young girls, once so vibrant and full of life, yet seem withdrawn and lost.

Strangers became the voice for these abused children when they referred the cases to SVSG for assistance.

SVSG hopes that by highlighting these cases, the community will become more engaged in supporting the victims of family violence - the vulnerable women and children.

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

Here is a look at why some of the youths have joined the SVSG Juniors:

My name is laneta Sa’u and I hail from the village of Falelauniau. My mother died of breast cancer in 2011. Reading the newspaper and watching the news every day is my motivation to join the SVSG Juniors group. Seeing and reading through on how our young generation is becoming the main issues in the news every day. There is either rape, violence or child abuse everyday on the news and its becoming life threatening to everyone. I have joined this group to voice out my opinion and my interest in lending a hand and help the victims that are suffering and in need every day. [Ianeta Sa’u - Vice Secretary]

My name is Nofovaleane Tuugamau born 9 December 1991. I was born and raised in Upolu before our family moved to Savaii for village commitments. I am currently working at the Development Bank of Samoa main office Apia as a Loans Officer. This job is aligned with my qualification which is a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Management and Economics. I live at Moataa but during the weekends I travel to Sili to visit my parents.

My hobbies include playing rugby during the weekdays and agricultural development where I work hard to cultivate our plantation in Savaii during the weekends. I am very ambitious and am balancing work with part time studies at the University of the South Pacific pursuing a Postgraduate Diploma in Governance. I believe that education is the key to success and thus I will continue to progress academically so that I continue to be the breadwinner of our family and secure a good and promising future. My passion is in helping others whether it is financially or emotionally. The reason I joined SVSG Juniors is because I believe in the miracle of moral support. It is important that we as a community help one another so I want to be an advocate of social welfare and wellbeing of others. The best way to do that is to be a member of the SVSG Juniors which is a vehicle of social development that allows people like myself to engage in community work and offer services to those in need [Nofovaleane Tuugamau - Supporting Member]

Laid back and chill kind of guy but probably the easiest to approach, always up for whatever the weather may be. Good Samaritan, washed up athlete, especially a gifted rapper. Just living one day at a time with a bowl of ice cream, afraid of roller coasters and heights. Grateful to be a part of a team of young people who are not just thinking about themselves, but also of others. [Vincent Laumoli –Vice Treasurer]
SVSG JUNIORS

The youth sub group of SVSG, the SVSG Juniors are on a roll as they kicked start 2017 with a new Executive Committee.

Next they took it to the street during their first fundraising event in April, the Walkathon, from the Malaefatu Playground at Sogi to the Marina at Matautu. The rain did not dampen the spirit of the Team and their supporters as they walked to raise funds for their community-based projects. The idea is to raise some funds to assist with the youth group’s community engagement activities planned for the year.

Always remember that this group was not established by experienced older people in the community. It was established by a group of young people fresh out of law school, who did not know anything at the time but only saw pain that they did not think existed in Samoa because of their privilege upbringing. So it was an idea born from young people.

So if you are young and would like to engage more with the community through help others, contact SVSG’s main office, and we will put you through to any of the SVSG Juniors member.

SVSG Juniors is all about staying connected, grounded and making a difference in the lives of others. We are small in numbers, but we are passionate about what we are doing. So come join us and be a part of the SVSG Juniors

In summary, people seeking assistance with SVSG total 107 during March and April 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 2017</th>
<th>April 2017</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 Interim Protection Orders providing protection for 59 children and 19 mothers;</td>
<td>12 Interim Protection Orders providing protection for 12 children and 12 mothers;</td>
<td>32 Interim Protection Orders providing protection for 71 children and 31 mothers;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 out of 20 were Protection Order for cases referred from Police</td>
<td>6 of these IPOs were for cases referred from the Police.</td>
<td>17 of these IPOs were for cases referred from the Police.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 cases referred to Police (8 domestic violence &amp; 5 complaint against Police)</td>
<td>12 cases referred to Police (1 sexual, 11 domestic violence)</td>
<td>25 cases referred to Police (19 domestic, 1 sexual and 5 complaints against Police)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 cases referred to the Ministry of Justice (1 custody &amp; 2 maintenance)</td>
<td>5 maintenance cases referred to the Ministry of Justice.</td>
<td>8 cases referred to the Ministry of Justice (1 custody &amp; 7 maintenance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 children admitted to the shelter facilities in March.</td>
<td>1 victim of sexual violation was admitted to the shelter facilities in April.</td>
<td>A total of 4 children were admitted in the shelter facilities during the period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of 57 cases were assisted with in March; A total of 50 cases were assisted with in April; A total of 107 cases were assisted with in March and April 2017
2. Court Support for Victims of Violence & Sexual Abuse

2.1 Supreme Court
Three of our sheltered girls have their cases heard in the Supreme Court in April. While two of the cases of incest and sexual violation were dismissed, 1 attempted rape case was successful.

The biological mother is now imprisoned for 2 years as party to rape while the defendant is imprisoned for 6 years for indecent/rape. The survivor is still at the shelter and has become an ambassador for victims of sexual abuse, as she shared her story to encourage young victims of sexual crimes to come forward.

She is an empowered young woman, ready to face the world with renewed self-esteem and livelihood skills learnt as part of her rehabilitation programs at the Campus of Hope. See more of her story under the Rehabilitation Section.

2.2 Family Court
Cases of three other sheltered children were called at the Family Court during the period; 2 for sexual violation and 1 for child abuse. Again, the transformation from lost and suicidal children to strong individuals who stood up against their family members in Court was noticeable, especially by the residing Judges.

With the support from UNICEF through a Court Officer to advocate and to follow up on children’s cases, the results have seen effective and efficient court support for the children.

3. Child Protection Services

3.1 Campus of Hope
It is a home, it is a rehabilitation centre, it is a safe haven for 75 children (inclusive of children with disabilities), cared for at the Campus of Hope during March and April 2017: 9 babies 8 – 28 months old; 21 children ages 5 – 12; 40 children ages 13 to 18; and 5 girls 19 years and older.

It is made up of the House of Blessings, a nursery for babies; the House of Hope for children 3 - 12 years old; the House of Dreams for girls 13 years and older; and the Ray of Hope for pregnant girls.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July: Carol’s House of Pearl MedSpa
Construction of the SVSG Office at the Campus of Hope to administer the shelter operations with a room to showcase the children’s products from their livelihood trainings.

The project will be funded by Carol Robbins of the Pearl MedSpa in Oregon and Arizona.

: Livelihood Training for the Nofotane Project
This is the main and the last component of a 2-year project currently implemented by Samoa Victim Support Group with funding assistance from the UN Women Fund for Gender Equality, where an estimate of 5,000 nofotane women will be empowered with a skill to assist them with sustainable employment.

Aug-Sept: SVSG Global Meeting
Annual global meeting of the SVSG Family both here in Samoa and its international sub-groups in New Zealand, Australia and American Samoa. globally. It will be held here in Apia for 2 days from 31 August & 1 September.

The global meeting is funded by contributions from all the sub groups of SVSG as well as SVSG here in Samoa.

September: ‘Classroom’ Extension for the School of Hope
Construction work to add another classroom for the School of Hope will commence in September.

The ‘Classroom’ will be built with funding support from the Helensvale State High School in Queensland.

The contractors will be the Rotary Club of Surfers Sunrise Incorporated of Queensland Australia, who were also responsible for the construction of the first shelter at the Campus of Hope in 2011, the House of Hope.
SVSG GLOBAL UPDATES

A big ‘Faamalo’ to the SVSG Global Aiga in New Zealand, Australia and American Samoa, for continuing your support of SVSG’s work here in Samoa. Through your fundraising activities, awareness raising and above all, your ‘loto nuu’, and pride in being sons and daughters of Samoa, you have contributed to supporting our people in need.

In March, the SVSG (Sydney) Friends of Hope made up of the Sydney Group youth volunteers, included a visit at the Campus of Hope during their time in Samoa. They spend time with the children and presented donations of supplies to assist with their daily caring.

In return, the children performed the traditional exchange of gifts, ‘Aiavā’ for their visiting friends.

Also in March, the SVSG Patron Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau & Faletua, together with President Siliniu Lina Chang, attended the SVSG (Queensland) Dinner of Hope fundraiser.

Thank you so much Eseta Frost, Director of the SVSG (Queensland) and the subgroup for hosting once again a successful event.

To the directors of the SVSG Global Aiga, we look forward to seeing you all in Apia in September, for the SVSG Annual Global Meeting. God bless you and your families for all that you have done for our people in Samoa.

It has its own school, the School of Hope, a Hall for extra curriculum activities and also for the children’s church services on Sunday. An outside kitchen is used for cooking stable meals such as boiled taro and banana. This is to ensure that the children will continue with normal chores they do at home, and to make the transition back to family life easier once they leave the Campus.

Through the partnership with the Ford Global Giving in 2016, a vegetable garden was planted, and this has been extended by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2017. These partnerships are important in sustaining the services we provide for the children while in residence.

A 24-hour security service ensured the safety of the children on Campus with strict rules for approved visitors. Overall, the Campus of Hope is operated with so much love from the community as people volunteered, donated, visited and partnered with SVSG to help the abuse and vulnerable children.

3.2 Rehabilitation Story: A Pathway to Successful Reintegration

She came to SVSG aged 16 as a victim of attempted rape, her own mother, a party to the offence. She says “This man would give my mother money between $50-$100 so he can see me.”

The intense experience shattered the survivor’s confidence, sense of identity and her ability to trust. In finding her passion for sewing however, she has been able to regain these lost abilities and begin to rebuild self-belief.

Says the ambassador for victims of sexual abuse, “I have never returned to my home but I am stronger now and I have found support through my new colleagues who feel like family.” In the end, despite how she was betrayed by what her mother did, “I have forgiven her and I am slowly moving on.”

The biological mother is now imprisoned for 2 years as party to rape while the defendant is imprisoned for 6 years for indecent/rape.
3.4 School of Hope

Based inside the Campus of Hope specifically for the continuing education of the children under SVSG’s care, 66 children ages 5 to 18 were taught at the school during March and April.

While SVSG awaits annual assistance from the government under the School Fee Grant Scheme for the salaries of the teachers, 2 full time teachers, LDS and Projects Abroad are responsible for teaching the students from 8.30am to 2.00pm.

The school has its own uniform for all children except for the pregnant girls and children with disabilities. SVSG tries to maintain the school as normal as possible like any other school, however, there will always be disruptions when a child is required by the Police or the National Prosecution Office for interview in preparation for a court case, or when required for doctors appointment. The students at the School of Hope are therefore battling it twice as hard as all other students in the main stream education. Their continuing education is all part of their rehabilitation.

3.5 Partnership with the Little Angels Foundation New Zealand

Poverty continues to be an issue in the provision of medical care for the children whose parents have sought SVSG’s assistance.

As an NGO relying on donor funding, fundraising and donations to sustain its support services, the partnership with the Little Angels Foundation of New Zealand has been a life saving approach to the desperate parents plea for help.

This is usually the case for children sponsored by the government under its Overseas Medical Scheme with travel costs covered by the family.

EVENTS

International Women’s Day Celebration
SVSG joined the celebration for the 2017 International Women’s Day commemorated in March. This was through acknowledging the women survivors of violence who have been empowered by livelihood trainings SVSG had previously rolled out.

Meet an Entrepreneur from Savaii:
She’s a Nofotane, she was trained on commercial cooking under SVSG’s Women Survivors of Violence Livelihood Program in 2014, and now, she is a rising entrepreneur in her village of Sili Savaii.

Tavai Leota now sells pork buns daily to students at the village school, and to the village community during village meetings, games or other activities. She earns ST$150.00 or USD70.00 a day from selling pork buns, net of all expenses. With a confident smile of an empowered woman, Tavai is now the major breadwinner in her husband’s family. She says, “If I can do it, you can do it too.”

Visitation from the Samoa Police Women Advisory Network

For the second year in a row, the Samoa Police Women Advisory Network led by Superintendent Monalisa Ioane-Keti, visited Samoa Victim Support Group to present in kind donations to assist with SVSG’s work for children at the Campus of Hope. The donation formed part of the SP WAN’s activity to celebrate the International Women’s Day 2017 and was put together by members of the SP WAN from both Upolu and Savaii.

SVSG President Siliniu Lina Chang accepted and thanked representatives of the SP WAN for continuing this partnership with SVSG in celebrating International Women’s Day.
CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN OUR SERVICE

Improvement from continuous learning is inherent in the work of SVSG, to ensure that our support services for the community is of the highest quality.

Partnership Meeting with Police

Monthly meetings with the Police Domestic Violence, Criminal Investigation and General Policing Units continued during March and April. The meetings allowed SVSG and the Police to consult on case referrals between the two organisations, to ensure an effective response mechanism is in place for those seeking support.

Matrons Refresher Training on Child Caring

The caregivers rostered to look after the children at the Campus of Hope continues with refresher trainings on child caring during the last weekend of every month.

This should ensure that they are well informed on how to properly care for the children, from babies to children with disabilities to pregnant girls. The trainings are conducted by the SVSG volunteers who have completed the Introduction to Caregivers Training with SVSG now recognized by the Samoa Qualification Authority as Non Formal Learning.

Staff Refresher Training on Child Protection Issues

SVSG had applied to UNICEF under the Multi-Year Work Plan 2017 for a staff refresher training on child protection. The training will focus on:

1. Understanding the dynamics of children physical abuse if happens in the family;
2. Understanding the dynamics of children physical abuse if happens in the family
3. Awareness of how to treat children brought in for cases and for shelter;
4. Expected codes of behaviour when working with children in the community
5. Responsibility to keeping children safe once brought to SVSG, and reporting concerns including any concerns about other staff behaviour

The training is scheduled for later this year during the weekend, and SVSG had also requested the Child Protection Officer Tupe Esera to facilitate the training.

During April, SVSG President Siliniu Lina Chang, on behalf of the generous donors, presented to the grateful parents of the child a return ticket for the mother valued at ST1,343.30 from the Little Angels Foundation.

Presented also was a cheque of ST$19.75 for NZ$330.00 from Lisa Sutton, Gaylene Rowe and Fiona Shearing all of New Zealand, donating on SVSG’s Givealittle page.

Baby’s operation was successful. She is recovering well with relatives in New Zealand and is due to arrive home with her mother later this month.

SVSG’s partnership with the Little Angels Foundation is based on assisting underprivileged children. There are three children in Upolu and three in Savaii currently cared for under this partnership.

In April, the Foundation donated $200.00 to assist with Baby Penina while in hospital at Fuailalo Savaii, as she continues to fight congenital hydrocephalus.

From the SVSG Board, “thank you so much to the Director of the Little Angels Foundation and your supporters for partnering with SVSG for our children in need.”
4. Advocacy Program for Offenders of Violence

According to a former Family Court Judge Her Honor Tafaimalo Leilani Tuala-Warren “SVSG is the backbone of the Family Court as the Ministry of Justice does not have the capacity to offer through probation these intervention programs.” This is through SVSG’s Advocacy Program for offenders of violence.

Despite the program being operated without a secured funding support, except for donations from local partners and SVSG (Sydney) in Australia, SVSG continues to self-fund the program as it is a unique attempt at lessening family violence in a holistic way, that is addressing the cause of the offending for the offender so that he or she does not reoffend.

This means SVSG is in a privileged position to address family violence cases that come to the Court from victims and offenders referred to SVSG, by healing the whole family. This is the uniqueness of the approach which warrants it continuity as part of SVSG’s support services.

A total of 25 men and 10 women have attended the men and women’s advocacy programs during March and April; 6 new referrals to the Tina Faufautua and 11 new referrals to the Men’s Advocacy with 18 of the participants continuing from January and February.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mar-17</th>
<th>Apr-17</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No referral</td>
<td>6 women offenders of violence</td>
<td>6 women offenders of violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 men offenders of violence</td>
<td>9 men offenders of violence</td>
<td>11 men offenders of violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A total of 2 referrals from the Family Court were recorded for March 2017</td>
<td>A total of 15 referrals from the Family Court were recorded for April 2017</td>
<td>A total of 17 referrals from the Family Court were recorded for March &amp; April 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The support from community leaders in churches and in villages is hereby acknowledged with appreciation as they continued to volunteer to facilitate the rehabilitation programs.

UNICEF Pacific: Child Protection Project

With funding from UNICEF Pacific covering salaries of 3 SVSG Child Protection staff, SVSG has been working closely with the UNICEF Child Protection Officer (CPO) Mrs. Tupe Es-era-Aumua to ensure that the project is administered in compliance with the grant agreement, while ensuring protection for the children. In March, the CPO started visitation at the Campus of Hope and reported monthly on these visitations. However with the 2-year funding to end in September 2017, SVSG remains hopeful that UNICEF Pacific will see the need for their support, and extend their assistance of SVSG’s child protection work.

STAR FOUNDATION: With and For Girls Award

Funding support from the Star Foundation as part of the ‘With and For Girls Award’ won by SVSG in 2016 is making a difference in the livelihood training of the young girls in residence at the Campus of Hope.

Handicraft materials, fabric paint, fabric for sewing and other miscellaneous items have been turned to colourful and creative products. These are displayed at the ‘Children’s Creation’ corner at the SVSG office on Campus. This is empowerment, and its shows the resilience of the young girls.

GERMANY EMBASSY: Refurbishment Project for House of Hope

Referred from a German residence in Samoa, Mrs. Pauline Marsden, SVSG applied for funding to refurnish the House of Hope in February. This was under the Germany Embassy in Wellington Micro Project funding.

The application was successful and funding of ST26,000 was received in April enabling SVSG to provide additional bunk beds to cater for the increasing number of children cared for at the Campus. A local construction company was tasked with the job; building bunk beds, and supplying mattresses with complete bed sheets and pillow cases. A representative from the Germany Embassy in Wellington officially handed over the beds to SVSG during a ceremony held at the Campus.
PROJECTS UPDATE

UN Women Fund for Gender Equality: Nofotane Project

April saw the completion of 25 advocacy training sessions for more than 500 SVSG village representatives in 166 villages in Upolu and Savaii, for Phase One of the Nofotane Project. With improved knowledge on the project, the village representatives are now tasked with advocating for the project in their respective village communities.

Preparation work carried out during the period, for the next phases of the project included:

1. **Multi-media campaign coordination** - signboards, brochures, posters, television program schedules, radio station shows and public information days for Upolu and Savaii;
2. **Workplace awareness consultation** - to increase employers understanding of their legal responsibilities when employing nofotane women as domestic workers; and
3. **Livelihood training sessions** for 5,000 unemployed nofotane women

Achievements to date:

- **Changing mindset takes time**, but changes have been noted as the conversations have started. Nofotane is now a topic of discussion during family meals, during village council meetings, during church minister’s sermon on Sunday; and lately during Parliament session.
- The **local and social media** have played a very important role in gauging the support of the community for the project and in engaging the members of the community in the discussions.
- **Blending tradition and Christian values**

While the changes brought about by contemporary lifestyles cannot be ignored, SVSG remains firm that our traditions and Christian values both play an important role on maintaining dignity and peace in our families. This is also true for the Nofotane project, as SVSG believes that blending our traditions and our Christian values should ensure everyone is treated equally. According to one of SVSG village reps, Seualuga Tauasā Malietoa Pouniu of Manase and Safotu “A nofotane’s place in our society remains, but the program is proclaiming God’s message for it recognizes the important role nofotane women play in families and villages.”

5. SVSG Village Representatives

5.1 Advocacy Training for the Nofotane Project

March and April saw the completion of the advocacy trainings for the SVSG village representatives as part of the Nofotane Project.

As village leaders themselves, the trainees are in a better position to influence a change in mentality towards nofotane women in their communities, thereby achieving the goal of the gender equality project.
CHALLENGES

The biggest challenge in being the voice of the voiceless is resources. We operate with very limited resources where funding are restricted to projects while donations are usually for a specific purpose, leaving the administration costs to be a daily struggle. As such, everything we receive, whether is monetary, in kind or volunteer support is a blessing.

We recycle a lot of materials in the office such as paper, folders, envelopes and reuse them. The few paid staff we have worked voluntarily after hours and during the weekends at the Campus of Hope. The Executive and the Board also carry out their roles out of the goodness of their hearts, the reward is an extra life saved.

In addressing family violence, the only assistance SVSG has is salaries of 3 staff paid by UNICEF for the protection of children. For our advocacy programmes for court referred offenders of violence, SVSG (Sydney) has assisted with the running of the programmes; facilitators from the church and village communities volunteer their times to conduct these programmes. Peace Chapel Christian Fellowship’s monthly donation of $300 specifically helps with the operation of SVSG’s room at the Court House; paying for expenses such stationery supplies, fuel for transporting children to and from court, and others.

Subsistence allowances for the volunteers working at the Campus of Hope to care for the children either as matrons, as caregivers or as gate keepers, are covered by the SVSG (Queensland) and SVSG (Auckland) Dinner of Hope fundraisings every year. Despite the struggles to cater for those seeking help with SVSG, our doors are always open. Volunteers to assist with our work are always welcome.

As a social service provider to our community, SVSG’s work always encounter challenges; some small, others big enough to test our faith.

But we are well grounded, trusting our journey to the God of miracles who strengthens us and continues to provide for us as we seek His guidance through prayer.

MARCH & APRIL PARTNERSHIPS

SVSG has established partnerships necessary to counter the challenges to its operation posed by limited resources. The SVSG Board therefore acknowledges with gratitude and appreciation the support from the following partners during March and April:

Piula Theological College  
Peace Chapel Christian Fellowship  
Seventh Day Adventist Church Tiapapata  
Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints  
Little Angels Foundation of New Zealand  
Germany Embassy in Wellington  
Divine Mercy from the Apia and the Moamoa Vicariate of the Catholic Church

Piula Theological College

The children at the Campus of Hope were treated to a day out with the reverends and their wives at the Piula Theological College in April, as part of the partnership with the College. Thank you to Reverend Dr. Mosese Mailo and the College for supporting SVSG through this partnership.

Divine Mercy: Apia and Moamoa Vicariate

The children at the Campus of Hope were treated to a day out with the reverends and their wives at the Piula Theological College in April, as part of the partnership with the College. Thank you to Reverend Dr. Mosese Mailo and the College for supporting SVSG through this partnership.

Divine Mercy: Apia and Moamoa Vicariate

The Divine Mercy of the Catholic Church visited the Campus for the first time in April as part of their annual celebration. Leading the Group was Father Manuele Vito, including Honorable Faimalotoa Kika Ah Kau of the Sinamoga Parish.

Food supplies such as taro, cartons of chicken, boxes of noodle and miscellaneous food supplies as well toiletries supplies were donated together with ST1,000 to assist with the daily caring of the children. An additional ST900+ was collected during the taualuga and this was added to the Group’s donation for the children.

Lions Club of Apia

Members from the Lions Club of Apia also visited the Campus in April with donations of toys, prams and miscellaneous supplies for the children.

The children are enjoying the donate goods thanks to the partnership with the Lions Club of Apia.