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

Mari's Bakery
Ola Fou Clinic
Saleufi Medical Clinic

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

Faa fetai! Faa fetai! Faa fetai tele lava

National Rugby League

Thank you Mike Felise and the team from the National Rugby League for running a skills clinic with the children of hope. The children had so much fun learning a few tips on the game of rugby league.

We look forward to continuing these clinics to develop the skills among the children of hope, and hopefully, recruit some who will be interesting in the sport.

With the donated rugby balls and pumps, the children will continue to train on their own, until your next visit.

Tiffany and Tyler of New Zealand

It was all smiles as we met up with Tiffany from the Office of the New Zealand High Commission in Samoa, and her son Tyler, who dropped off some donation of clothing for the children at the Campus.

Thank you for the kind donation Tiffany and all the best when you return to New Zealand Tyler.

Melissa Angius of Melbourne

Thank you Melissa Angius and family from Melbourne Australia for visiting the children and the kind donation of food supplies and $200.00 to assist with the children’s daily needs.
FINANCIAL & IN KIND DONATION
For September & October, SVSG acknowledges with gratitude and appreciation the kindness of the following donors:

Financial Donors

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In Kind Donors

- Laika Lewis & Elenor Aylay, Peace Corps Volunteers, 2 bags of clothes
- Jana Han, clothes and miscellaneous children’s toys
- Stephanie Vertsonis & Daniel Martins, Western Sydney University of Australia, shoes, volley balls, reading books

A special thank you to SVSG’s ongoing partners assisting with the children’s caring:

- 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;
- Greg & Maria Meredith for the children’s daily supplies of bread;
- Epi Smith for the children’s bread supplies twice a week;
- Tuato & Anna Ryan for the children’s Sunday toanai & bread supplies;
- 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 supply every Sundays;
- 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;
- Motuipuaa Dr. Aisoli Vaai of the Saleufi Medical Clinic, for the children’s free medical consultation;
- Taulealeausamai 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; and
- Fatima Apostolate Fellowship of Mulivai Apia for hosting the children every Tuesday for Rosary and their evening meal

Talofa lava!

As the Chair of the SVSG Board, I am ending 2019 with a special sense of gratitude for our families and friends. 2019 has been a year full of challenges and opportunities for SVSG. It will go down in the history of SVSG’s child protection work as one of the toughest years with the loss of close to 100 children due to the measles.

On a positive note, our children of hope have shown remarkable energy, recognized locally and internationally, such as Leilua Lino as a Commonwealth Innovation Award Winner and Feagaiga Stowers being Samoa’s flag bearer during the XVI Pacific Games in Apia. Our youth have successfully completed a 12 months project with 5 other international NGOs on a BreakIn Project: Engaging Men & Boys in Ending Violence. Our Executive and staff have had the opportunity to be the voice of the voiceless in regional and international dialogues

But despite the year 2019 and its normal work not being properly closed off due to the measles outbreak, we are welcoming the new year with anticipation. As such, I wish each and every one a most prosperous new year in God’s grace.

For Samoa Victim Support Group, 2020 takes us to the 15th year of its support service to the people of Samoa. Now this is a milestone achievement of its own.

We therefore extend our deepest appreciation and gratitude to all our generous donors—including visionary partners and individual community members—who make our work possible. Thank you for sharing our commitment to support, to help and to care for the people of Samoa.

Let us welcome 2020 with gratitude!

God bless

Georgina Lui
Chair, SVSG Board
1. FAMILY VIOLENCE

SVSG’s casework database recorded 33 new cases lodged in September and 32 in October to the Apia main office. For the Tuasivi Office in Savaii, there were 20 cases lodged in September compared to the 22 in October. This brings the total amount of new cases SVSG assisted with to 53 in September and 54 in October 2019.

Of the total 107 new cases lodged during the two months of September and October, violence incidents accounted for 25% of these cases. However, the type of assistance our people sought highlighted the ripple effect of violence in our families. Our people continued to seek support for maintenance, custody, counselling and mediation which all stem from violence hence the family breakdown.

Here is a look at the type of assistance sought by our people in September and October:

- 38 counselling & mediation;
- 27 domestic violence of which 4 were child abuse and 23 were violence against women;
- 14 maintenance & custody;
- 11 sexual abuse
- 10 welfare assistance
- 6 were land dispute matters; and
- 1 attempted murder

Of great concern to SVSG during this period is the increase in the number of sexual abuse cases reported requiring assistance. The victims age range from 3 – 18 years old while the perpetrators are the people of are in the position of trust, to look after these young girls, such as step fathers, relatives and even church ministers. Some of the victims of sexual abuse for this period are sisters, who were both abused by the same man in their village.

7 out of 11 sexual abuse victims reported to SVSG during this period are now residence at the Campus of Hope shelter facility for their safety, while the Police are carrying out their investigations.

Summarized below are some of the highlighted cases reported to SVSG in September and October 2019:
Clean Water & Sanitation Project

Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) calls for clean water and sanitation for all people.

And the SVSG Junior is contributing to the achievement of this goal by working with the underprivileged members of our community who are not accessing this necessity.

The Clean Water Sanitation Project received an extra boost in October when Corallie Allen of the Kindest Cut of Sydney Australia donated 20 water tanks for the families in need, in Savaii. The SVSG Junior members in Savaii assisted with the installation of the water tanks and were rewarded with the smiles from each household benefited from the project.

Thank you Coralie Allen and the team from the Kindest Cut for supporting our project for the people of Savaii.

‘Start with the Men’ Campaign

The youths have been making noise throughout September leading up to the launch of the ‘Start with the Men’ Campaign late October.

The Campaign puts into practice the learning and knowledge gained from the Breaking the Cycle Project in which the SVSG Juniors have been part of as partners with 5 other international NGOs.

It basically puts the men and boys in the forefront of preventative work to end violence against women and girls.

10.09.19: Rape

A school teacher at a Primary School referred an 11 year old girl who has been raped by 3 young men in the village. The victim was still in her uniform when she was brought into the SVSG office. She looked so lost. She is the 5th eldest child of 7 children who live with their biological father. The mother had left with another man. SVSG immediately referred the matter to the Police for further investigation. The child is now a residence of the Campus of Hope to await her court case.

11.09.19: Rape

While the Police were carrying out its investigation on the case of the 11 year old rape victim highlighted above, they came across the victim’s older sister at 17 years old, who was also a victim of the gang rape by 3 young men in the village. This latest victim attended College at the time of the incident, however, for her safety, the Police brought her in to SVSG for shelter care. Within 1 day of being separated, the 2 sisters reunited at the Campus of Hope under very difficult circumstances. The cases of both sisters are currently under Police investigation. Both are undergoing counselling sessions at the Campus by the SVSG Psychosocial Support Officer while at the same time, join in the relevant rehabilitation programs for the children of hope.

13.09.19: Domestic Violence

Beaten and humiliated, a 41 year old housewife sought SVSG’s assistance after her husband beat her up in public, right next to a church close to her husband’s place of work. The mother of 2 grown children have had enough of the abuse, especially it has affected her children; who on this particular morning opted to be dropped off outside of their respective school gates to avoid their colleagues witnessing the argument between their parents in the car. The husband works for a government ministry; the eldest son is in his final year of college. According to the mother, she will return to her family for her safety and that of her children. She wished to apply for an Interim Protection Order for her and her children against her husband. SVSG supported the mother and her children in applying for an IPO and in relocating to the mothers family.
17.09.19: Attempted Murder

Anger over an extramarital affair prompted a 30 year old mother of 4 children to kill her husband. She poured hot boiling water over him while sleeping. The husband suffered severe burns to his upper body. The wife left him to die while their children cried out for help on his behalf. The burnt victim and his family sought SVSG’s assistance for a protection order against his wife. The matter was immediately referred to the Police.

02.10.19: Rape

A 16 year old girl was sexually abused by a church minister while under his care. An SVSG village representative alerted SVSG via the Help Line for assistance to evacuate the sexually abused victim for her safety. SVSG staff travelled to the village late at night to pick her up. She is now safe at the Campus of Hope while the matter has been referred to the Police for investigation. At the time of printing, the church minister had been charged with rape and had pleaded guilty to the offence.

03.10.19: Child Abuse

Two child vendors age 6 and 12 were being abused while vending on the streets. They were saved by a young couple who witnessed them being abused by a relative at the side of the road. While some members of the public at the scene choose not to intervene, this couple brought the 2 children to the SVSG office for help at close to 7.00pm.

Upon closer look, the 6 year old was in a severe condition compared to the 12 year old. The matter was immediately referred to the Police. The children were taken under SVSG’s shelter care until the matter was sorted out with their families.

Pacific Regional Dialogue on Engaging Men in the Prevention of Violence Against Women

Staff development continues for youth member and the SVSG Court Officer, Mr Mane Su’a when he represented SVSG to the Pacific Regional Dialogue on Engaging Men in the Prevention of Violence Against Women, 16 – 20 September at Sigatoka Fiji.

Part of Mane’s role is to coordinate the SVSG Men’s Advocacy Program. As such, he shared on how the perpetrator program is working alongside the Family Court in Samoa through rehabilitation programs for the offenders of violence.

International Youth Peace Group

Meanwhile in New Zealand, Ms. Esmeralda Lo Tam represented the SVSG Junior during a meeting with Matthew Jeffries and Zion Faletolu of the International Youth Peace Group.

Youth Member Making Progress

In October, the SVSG Junior Executive congratulated one of its own youth members, Mr. Michael Tamanikaiyaroi who had opened a new space for youths to ‘Explore, Imagine and Create’.

So if you do not have a place to hang out, please come down to The Safe Space at Vaitele; it is free and it is youth oriented.

Zumba Fundraising

Fundraising Zumba continues to assist with financing some of the youth programs.

Thank you to everyone who supported the youth’s zumba fundraising in October which collected close to $600.00 towards our community projects.
**Sri Lank Men Engage Training**

A gender balanced delegation from Samoa took part in the Train the Trainer workshop hosted by the Foundation for Innovative Social Development in Sri Lanka from 3 – 11 September 2019.

The Training is the 4th component of the “Breaking the Cycle: Men and Boys Engage Project to End Violence Against Women”.

Before the team departed for their learning experience, they sought an audience with the Acting Chief Justice, Justice Vui Clarence Nelson for his usual advice as a mentor. “You all have to use this opportunity to learn new strategies to engage men and boys to end violence.”

And the Samoa delegation learnt and respected the different cultures represented by the co-partners to the Project.

Acknowledging the differences while appreciating the similarities in culture enabled the participants to put together a ‘Tool Kit’ to guide the individual organizations in their Campaigns to engage men and boys in the fight to end violence.

Thank you Kaska and Cristina for coordinating once again, another successful gathering of the partners. Acknowledge also the co funding support by the ERASMUS+ Programme of the European Union.

**SVSG Church Youth Groups Partners**

Congratulations to our SVSG Youth groups who competed in the West Vicariate of the Catholic Church competition in September.

We may represent different youth church youth groups, but together, we are youth out to make a difference under the umbrella of the SVSG Junior.

**Siva Mai!**

**10.10.19: Assault**

A mother sought SVSG’s help for justice for her 16 year old son brutally beaten by a school principal and left him with injuries and bruises all over his body. The child could barely walk when he was brought to the SVSG Office.

The matter was immediately referred to the Police for its usual investigation.

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

**2. CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES**

Majority of the highlighted cases dealt with by SVSG during this period singled out the children as the most vulnerable, hence, they need more of our protection; especially given the perpetrators are usually the ones who have been entrusted to care for them.

Look at the church minister whom the 16 year old stayed with, yet he turned around and sexually abused her. Then we had the 2 sisters who were sexually abused by the same men in the village. How about the 2 child vendors age 6 and 12 who were abused by their own relatives? Even the school principal took the ‘reasonable force’ provision of the corporal punishment as a license to beat up a 16 year old boy until he could barely walk. These are some of the ugliest violent acts we have seen so far and as a child protection agency, SVSG ensures that justice is served and that the children are safe from further harm.

The Saving Lives Campaign launched by SVSG mid-September assisted close to 70 neglected children with disabilities, abused child vendors on the streets and in schools, suicidal sexually abused young girls in the homes, and new born babies from underprivileged families. Through the Help Line and an informed community, we were able to save this many children.
Together with the support from local businesses who partnered with SVSG on the Saving Lives Campaign, we have been able to obtain carers from the families of the children with disabilities abandoned in their homes; removed both the abused child vendors from the streets as well as the sexually abused young girls from within the homes, to the safety of the Campus of Hope. As for the new born babies requiring welfare assistance, we were able to provide them with the basic necessities from donations we have received.

And as our country started to battle the measles outbreak that is causing devastation and the loss of lives nation-wide, Samoa Victim Support Group is fighting a different battle within our homes, brought about by violence, anger and gender inequality.

The partnership with UNICEF Pacific in carrying much needed child protection work for our children is therefore crucial and much appreciated.

**The Reintegration Program**

Raped by her own cousin at age 15, this child was pregnant while still a child herself. She is the eldest of 7 children. The family high chief told the family to leave in case the village imposes a traditional fine as punishment for this incest rape matter. The family left the village for their safety and to seek justice for their child. SVSG took the child under its care in March 2018. The child gave birth to a healthy baby boy on 13 September 2018. The perpetrator was sentenced to 3 years 2 months in prison on 11 September 2018.

The child grew up so much while at the shelter. She found comfort in singing and she has such a beautiful voice. She loves reading her Bible and joins the older girls for bible studies and church services hosted by the Potters House Christian Church of Vaitele.

Locally, PFL’s Agency Manager, Mrs. Teuila Eteuati and staff have offered voluntary services for the staff to carry out voluntary work, 4 days a week to assist with looking after the babies, maintaining the grounds and other assistance required at the Campus.

Thank you to the General Manager of Pacific Forum Line, Mr. Michael Swan, for initiating the discussion on this partnership with SVSG, and for opening the opportunity to work with PFL both regionally and locally.

**6.5 Office of the Ombudsman/National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)**

In line with SVSG’s advocacy and awareness raising role, representative from the Group took part in the radio awareness programs carried out by the Office of the Ombudsman in September.

Ms. Leilua Lino, the Commonwealth Innovation Award Winner 2019 who is a residence at the Campus of Hope delivered an inspiring message for the Ad Campaign encouraging children to speak out against violence.

**7. SVSG JUNIORS**

They are few in numbers but have been growing its network with church youth groups throughout Upolu and Savaii. They are creating spaces and are gathering followers, especially with its ‘Start with the men’ Campaign.

Here is a look at SVSG’s youth sub-group’s work in September and October:


6.3 Equality & Justice Alliance Network:

Haus of Khameleon, Fiji

Earlier this year, SVSG became part of the regional network under the Equality and Justice Alliance (EJA) banner aimed at supporting legislative reform in select commonwealth countries that have discriminatory laws affecting women, girls and LGBT+ people.

Included in this network is the Haus of Khameleon of Fiji, and the SVSG Junior Executive members had the pleasure of meeting the Coordinator Miki Charlamagne Wali while in Samoa in October.

It was such an inspiration to hear of young leaders sharing experiences with a positive attitude in achieving common goals.

Samoa Faafafine Association, Samoa

Locally, SVSG continues working in partnership with the Samoa Faafatine Association (SFA) not only as part of the EJA, but also in raising awareness on ending violence.

Following on from the SFA & Partners: Ending Violence Stigma & Discrimination National Campaign 25th - 30th August 2019, the partners held informal dialogue in October. This is to maintain the momentum of work done by the individual partners to date, and to plan ahead for the usual end of the year activities for the 16 Days of Activism.

6.4 Pacific Forum Line

Following on from the Regional Directors visit to the Campus in August, SVSG received ST10,000.00 from the Pacific Forum Line as part of the Company’s assistance towards the work of SVSG.

The Partnership with SVSG extended to include support for the shipment of donated goods from New Zealand and Australia through the Shipping Line.

In January this year, this young lady was baptized as a born-again Christian. Our matured child knew exactly what she wanted to do in life and she was ready to return home. She was successfully reintegrated in October 2019.

Pre-Reintegration Support

The family had moved from urban to rural Upolu since the child’s rape. The SVSG village representative in the village notified SVSG accordingly.

When SVSG visited the family for its initial assessment, the team had problems locating the family as they live further inland with no access road. The team had to walk about 2 kilometers from the main road to reach the family. The child accompanied the team during the visit.

The family had to restart all over again. There is electricity but no water. SVSG is now including this family under its welfare support for water tanks, clothing and other basic necessities.

The family wanted nothing to do with the baby, born from the incest rape of their child and so the baby remains at the nursery. While at the shelter, the child continues to undergo pre-reintegration support programs. While she expressed her worries about continuing her education now that her family had moved, her resilience shows by the mere fact that she wanted to complete her college education.

Saying goodbye to all of our reintegrated children continues to take its toll on all of us emotionally. The same was when we farewell this dear child.

We have to mentally pick ourselves up each time a child leaves because we have a whole lot more children remaining at the Campus who depended on us for their rehabilitation and their eventual reintegration.
Community Awareness

The Commonwealth Innovation Award Winner 2019, Ms. Leilua Lino fronted the community awareness for 4 Primary Schools in Savaii, namely the Salelologa, Salelavalu, Iva, and Sa’asa’ai Primary Schools. Girls from the 4 schools who are taking part in the G.L.O.W program coordinated by Peace Corp. volunteer teachers working at these Primary Schools requested a presentation from SVSG during one of the G.L.O.W gathering.

It was an emotional experience not only for the girl survivors of gender based violence from the Campus of Hope, but also for the G.L.O.W members.

The awareness focused on inappropriate touching and/or behavior as well as maltreatment and exploitation.

More than 50 primary school girls together with 6 female teachers were reached during the G.L.O.W awareness session.

This was by far the most diverse group of young girls in which the community awareness program had reached within one session, given that these girls represented 4 different schools, 4 villages and a lot more diverse church denominations within these villages.

SVSG will monitor any gender based violence cases affecting children from the areas covered by all 3 community awareness programs during this period.

So come the year 2020, the 25th anniversary commemoration of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action is all about accelerating the realization of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls.

In the region, the Beijing+25 Review concluded that:

- Progress has been made towards gender equality at the institutional level in terms of legal, policy and programming frameworks across the region;
- Change is evident at different levels in terms of access to health services and attainment in education for women and girls; and attitudes towards gender roles particularly around leadership and recognition of violence as a key developmental challenge;
- Much more remains to be done to enable maximum impact for women’s economic empowerment, access to employment and enhancing women’s leadership in the political arena;

For SVSG and its work to address gender equality in Samoa, especially those faced by the nofotane women, we can say that the Beijing +25 Review confirms a lot of what we know already:

That while we are making progress in women’s economic empowerment;

We are also confronted with deep chasms of gender based inequality, discrimination and violence;

As a support service provide, SVSG therefore needs to re-strategize for the next years and into the future to ensure that it continues to make progress towards the achievement of gender equality in Samoa, in all its aspect.
6. LOCAL & REGIONAL NETWORKING

6.1 TOA Pacific Inc. of New Zealand

The SVSG President Siliniu Lina Chang and staff had the opportunity to share experiences with the Malia Hamani, Chief Executive Officer and staff of the TOA Pacific Inc.

The not-for-profit organisation is based in Auckland New Zealand, and promotes the Rights, Safety and Well-being of ‘Treasured Older Adults’ Aiga Carers and Pacific Families.

The hands on approach, the caring nature and the family focus are some of the similarities in the nature of the work experience shared during the meeting.

Thank you Malia Hamani for making time to meet with SVSG despite your busy schedule while in town. Thank you also to Mrs. Vailoa Milo-Harris for coordinating the meeting and for maintaining the FaaSamoa approach in your work with our elderly community in New Zealand. The donation of $400.00 for the Office will assist with our cash power. Thank you for your generosity.

6.2 Regional Preparatory Meeting on Beijing +25 Review

SVSG was represented at the Preparatory Meeting on the Beijing +25 Review, held in Suva, Fiji from 28 – 31 October 2019 by the Group’s Communication & Networking Manager. The delegation from Samoa included the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, and the Senior Research & Policy Officer of the Ministry.

It was an opportunity for SVSG to have an input in the preparation of a regional response to the critical areas of concern on gender equality in the Pacific, as per the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action set down in 1995

As one of the pillars of GLOW (Girls Leading Our World), the girls have been or will be learning more about Healthy Bodies and Healthy Minds. For this pillar, the girls learn about healthy diets, habits, emotional regulation, exercises such as yoga, boxing, running, or anything that makes them feel good.

We work with Samoan counterparts so the girls understand the information being conveyed and having a strong Samoan woman help lead the girls makes the information/activities more relatable to them. It’s important for the girls to be engaged in activities which empower them to take their lives’ into their own hands, whether their struggles be internal or external, or both.

Our four schools, Salelologa, Salelavalu, Iva, and Sa’asa’ai felt it was pertinent that SVSG had speakers come to the girls to discuss domestic violence, experiences with survivors of assault, and how to prevent it/seek help.

Unfortunately, young girls to women are often exposed to some kind of harassment in their lives and may not realize the impact that has on their mental health and outlook on the future of themselves. It can often misshape their views of themselves or even identity.

Having local speakers with knowledge of this subject and survivors helps the girls feel like they’re not alone and empowers them to seek help and not stand for any form of harassment, assault, or abuse society may tell them to endure or push through.

We are so thankful organizations such as SVSG exist for these young girls to show them they’re not alone, they have support, and they don’t have to put up with any form of violence towards them.

Thank you,
Alyssa Quintero
Peace Corp Volunteer
Salelologa Primary School
2.1 Campus of Hope

There were 10 new admissions to the shelter facility in September and October; 8 were victims of sexual abuse (all girls) and 2 young boys who were victims of child abuse. 3 survivors of sexual abuse and 3 of child abuse were successfully reintegrated to the community during the period.

A total of 100 children were cared for at the Campus of Hope during the 2 months of September and October: [7 babies ages 5 months – 2 years (4 girls & 3 boys); 9 boys ages 3 – 12 years old and 84 girls ages 3 – 19 years old].

With this many children to look after, SVSG reacted immediately when the initial alert on the measles outbreak came out early October, through requesting the National Health Services for the nurses to carry out the measles vaccination for all the children and caregivers at the Campus. The vaccination extended to all of SVSG staff both on Campus and at the main office in Apia.

Thank you so much to the NHS for responding immediately to our request for immunization for the children.

Other precautionary measures taken by SVSG at this time was reducing the children’s outing in the community to only the older girls 16 years upwards, while the rest of the younger ones remain on Campus.

The support from the community both here and abroad towards the Campus has been tremendous as usual, and highlighted herein are some of these experiences:

5. SAVING LIVES CAMPAIGN

In the wake of a series of abandoned babies in Samoa during this time, SVSG in its role as a child protection agency stepped up its community awareness to reassure our people that help is only a phone call away.

Speaking during the press conference to launch the Campaign, Mrs. Georgina Lui, reiterated that “no problem is too big to warrant an end to a life as there is always Help available.”

The Saving Lives Campaign focused on reminding our people that HELP is available through the services offered by SVSG such as: (1) The Free 24 hour Help Line number 800-7874; it offers anonymity for those who wish to remain anonymous; it offers counseling in confidence; and it is manned by a compassionate pool of staff (2) There is support for walk in clients to SVSG’s Apia office or the one at Tuasivi Savaii; (3) The SVSG village representatives in villages have been trained to offer first hand support.

And the Campaign had assisted in helping our people. We have seen families at our office requesting assistance to locate missing children; or to return children who have run away from home.

Other parents took up the responsibility to save other parent’s children being abused while selling goods on the streets.

There is no doubt that everyone has their own families to look after; and their own problems to deal with. But the Saving Lives Campaign had reminded our people that it wouldn’t do any harm to care a little or even to help others around you. It is our collective responsibility as a community.

Thank you to all the companies that have sponsored signboards that form an important part of the Saving Lives Campaign. Our people are now reminded of the Help Line numbers through the signboards inside their villages:

- Moana Rentals $600.00
- Pacific Ezy Money Transfer $600.00
- Federal Pacific Finance $600.00
- Samoa Commercial Bank $1,800.00
- CCK Trading, Blue Pacific Car Hire & Hyundai Ford $1,800.00
However, we have seen how economic empowerment is not only bringing income which contributed to the nofotane women’s improved wellbeing, but we are also seeing opportunities for innovative development in skills, in equal treatment and participation in family and village matters, and in recognizing the voices of these women in discussions.

And the progress of the nofotane women is going regional and even reaching the international markets. Members of the Ura Tabu Dance Group from New Zealand, who visited SVSG in September were amongst the buyers of the nofotane products available at the SVSG main office in Apia.

During the Pacific Week of Agriculture in Samoa late September, the nofotane women were invited to set up a stall.

The invitation enabled the nofotane women to showcase and sell their handicrafts and agricultural produces as these promote sustainable lifestyles and healthy foods for the development of our social, economic, environmental and cultural existence.

In October, we received these differently designed flowers created by Faatuatua Mui, a nofotane woman of Salua Manono, who is now earning an income for her and her family from selling these products at the market.

Another nofotane woman, Maria Tina Frazer Kubik of Satitoa Falealili uses the colourful rubber materials to create matching necklace and bracelet accessories for the children’s White Sunday in October, and colourful decorations for Christmas

The nofotane woman is therefore not only a caretaker for her family, but she is also an artist, a creator of innovative work of art.

Miss Samoa Los Angeles

Before Ms. Trinity Robertson-Asuega took the cat walk for the Miss Samoa beauty pageant in September, she made a special request to visit the children of hope.

It was a visit that encouraged Miss Samoa Los Angeles to do her best during the pageant knowing that the children of hope would amongst her cheering squad.

Thank you Trinity for encouraging the children with your visit; they felt special when you danced your Siva Samoa specifically for them. Thank you also to your parents and your team of supporters (Samoa ua Tasi) for the donation of $1,290.00 for the Campus.

Ura Tabu Pacific Dance of New Zealand

The children enjoyed the ‘Pasifika Mind and Body’ workshop offered by the Ura Tabu Pacific Dance group based in Auckland New Zealand, during their Malaga to Samoa during the Teuila Festival.

According to the Creative Director Ms. Charlene Tedrow, the workshop is an empowering movement based, which is a form of release and healing through the siva, hula an aura. Thank you Charlene and the Team for sharing laughter with the children while you were here. Thank you also for the donation of $330.00 towards the Campus operation.

Give Alofa Humanitarian of Utah

The founder of the Give Alofa Humanitarian Mr. Afa Ah Loo and his family from Utah USA visited the children and provided lunch for them while in the country in September.

In October, Ms. Dahlia Loibl, presented GiveAlofa gifts as part of the Give Alofa contribution towards the daily caring of the children at the Campus. Thank you Afa and the family for your kind donation and we look forward to the new partnership with SVSG
Sarah Emily & Family of Australia

Sarah Emily and Pilia’e of Sydney Australia visited the children for the second time in September. This time, they brought some of their family members as well who spent time with the children and the babies at the nursery.

The family members were grateful to SVSG for providing this service for the abused children of Samoa and they vowed to return.

The visit was also an opportunity for SVSG acknowledge the continuous support from Mrs. Kerri-Anne Shoesmith who has been a long-time supporter of SVSG, especially towards the airfares of children evacuated to New Zealand for medical treatment. Thank you so much Sarah Emily and Pilia’e for visiting the children whenever you are in Samoa. Thank you also for the kind donation put together for the children.

Pearl of the Pacific Group of Canberra

They were merely out for a walk around the area and they came across the Campus of Hope. Curiously, members of the Pearl of the Pacific Group from Canberra who were here for the Teuila Festival sought an opportunity to visit the children and they did;

The members were amazed by the whole setting as they never knew such a place existed for the abused children in Samoa. The members donated $200.00 and vowed to return later in the week for a longer visit.

And as promised, a box of assorted goods was later presented by Afio-ga Nuu Lilomaia Sione on behalf of the Group, which contain food and toiletry supplies.

Thank you for Pearl of the Pacific for the impromptu visit and the box food of goodies for the children.

And our Youth Group, the SVSG (Junior) had the opportunity to pilot its ‘Start with the Men’ Campaign by working with the mothers; starting the conversation on the important role they play in raising our male children to become stronger individuals and leaders.

The whole idea is being inclusive in the fight to end violence in our families, rather than being a bystander.

For the SVSG Patron Honorable Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau, he continued to attend some of the Men Advocacy sessions to encourage the men on the important role they play in our daily lives.

SVSG acknowledges the commitment from the volunteer counselors who facilitated these programs as part of their services to the community. We would not be able to effect these positive changes amongst the participants to the program without your support. God bless!

4. THE NOFOTANE WOMEN

The economic empowerment of nofotane women in Samoa has been SVSG’s strategy to ensure that no one is left behind.

This is part of SVSG’s work to address the inequality in status, rights and opportunities faced by the nofotane women in village communities.

It has been more than a year now since the successful completion of the Nofotane Project with UN Women Fund for Gender Equality (UN Women FGE), and later, with the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI).
However, more child vendors are joining the Hot Soup Skill Training program run by SVSG at the Campus of Hope, where they learnt the basic reading and writing skills, as well as livelihood skills.

It was therefore welcoming news when SVSG was once again rewarded with funding from the US Embassy in Apia, to continue the Group’s work with child vendors for the next 12 months.

The SVSG Financial Controller joined the other grantees in September to officially receive the Award from Chargé d’Affaires, Antone Greubel. It is a pleasure to continue working in partnership with the US Embassy in Apia to clean up our streets of child vendors, and work on placing them back to school.

3. ADVOCACY PROGRAMS FOR OFFENDERS OF VIOLENCE

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

According to one of the participants, “the initial shameful feeling associated with being part of a Perpetrator Program, is slowly being replaced by a sense of belonging, to a support network of women, and I am grateful.” And this is the aim of the rehabilitation program for offenders of violence under SVSG’s Advocacy Program, to influence behavioural and mentality changes amongst the participants, to become better fathers, mothers and youths in their families and communities.

Early September, the Ura Tabu Pacific Dance Group offering the women offenders of violence under SVSG’s Tina Fauafautua program a form of release and healing through the Siva, Hula and Ura.

There is usually a lot of interaction through skits, songs and the Word of God.

And for White Sunday this year, the a‘oa‘o and their wives joined the children of hope in celebration. It was a blessed experience for all, and we are honored Lord, for such a privilege as we see your hand in everything that happens within this Campus.

The White Sunday celebrations ended with a Sunday Lunch prepared by the Susuga A‘oa‘o ma faletua. And our children were humbled, with the attention accorded to them.

Thank you for the donation of $100.00 to support the Advocacy Program.

The partnership between SVSG and the Malua Theological College continues.

In September, a group of third year students from the theological college started on their 5-weeks ‘Faamasani Program’ with SVSG. This is part of the practical learning by the students on their pastoral care.

Lead by Reverend Filemoni Crawley, the ‘Faamasani Program’ remains one of the popular times for the children of hope as they got to spend time on Sundays with the 3rd year students from the theological college and their wives.

Thank you to the 3rd year students for the donation of $3,000 for the Campua. We wish you all the best as you progress on to the final stage of your studies at Malua Theological College. God bless!
Rosary at Our Lady of Fatima Grotto, Mulivai Cathedral

The children of hope look forward to their Tuesday evenings of Rosary at Our Lady of Fatima Grotto at the Mulivai Cathedral.

During September, the children joined the delegation of the Fatima Apostolate World Conference for an evening of prayer with Mother Mary.

Thank you to the mothers of the Fatima Apostolate Fellowship of Mulivai Apia for welcoming the children to their Rosary session, and for hosting them for dinner every Tuesdays.

Mabel Park State High School of Brisbane

A small group of students who were part of the Mabel Park State High School’s first trip to Samoa included in their schedule a visit at the Campus of Hope in September.

The Girls in Engineering, Maths and Science (GEMS) program learnt the chemistry required to produce their own cosmetics such as lip gloss, lipsticks and nail polish, and with these, they have put together gift bags for the girls at the Campus.

Thank you so much for visiting the children and for showing the children of hope that you care for them. We look forward to many more visits from the GEMS in the future, and to seeing you becoming successful Scientists in the future.

Thank you Jodie Silao, a teacher in Logan Australia for coordinating the visit.

Hillcrest High School of Hamilton

The Hillcrest High School of Hamilton New Zealand joined the visiting schools at the Campus in September. Prior to the school malaga, the coordinator requested the visit in order for the school group choir to sing a few songs for the children of hope.

Thank you to the choir for the beautiful singing during their visit and we look forward to seeing you again.

2.2 School of Hope

Innovation is what described the variety of skills taught at the School besides its normal academic focus.

It was a challenge for the teachers and skills trainers to teach 92 children who attend the School during the period due to the different level of education at the time of admission to the Campus. While those continuing with their academic studies and skills training started to adapt, new admissions meant that some of the teachers and skills trainers were required to take on a one-on-one session with them to bring them up to the date with the learning at the school.

Nevertheless, the reward far outweighs the challenges as we have seen the children developing their confidence to learn and to excel in some of the skills training they have chosen as part of their extra curriculum activities.

In September, some of the girls learning flower arrangement put together a beautiful flowers as a congratulation gift for one of its volunteer tutor in English namely Ms. Erna Takazawa, who had just opened her Eye Specialist Clinic in town. Congratulations once again Erna.

Young mothers learned the art of fabric printing while the others enjoyed the training as a form of self-defence and discipline.

Thank you to the Ministry of Education for supporting the School of Hope, as well as our volunteer trainers who are part of the teaching staff at the school.

2.3 Child Vendors – The Hot Soup Skill Building Training

With the successful completion of the 12-months project in August where SVSG worked together with the US Embassy Office in Apia to get the child vendors out of the streets, 20 children have been placed back to the mainstream education.
A Birthday Gift
For his birthday celebration in October, Chargé d’Affaires, Antone (Tony) Greubel of the US Embassy Apia received monetary gifts from families and friends. With this monetary gifts, Tony was able to purchase 6 boxes of Enfamil Infant Formula valued at $2,600 as his gift for the babies cared for at the Campus of Hope nursery.

Enfamil, according to Tony, is the number one brand recommended by pediatricians for the babies, and that was why he wanted to buy nothing but the best for the babies at the Campus. Included in the donation presented today were 10 x 24 cases of Aloha Maid soft drinks courtesy of the SAMPAC Limited. Thank you Tony for your birthday gift for the children.

Family of God, Vaitele
The church leader of the Family of God church at Vaitele accompanied members of the congregation and the children for a visit at the Campus for the first time in October. The visit was part of the White Sunday celebration with the children of hope and the start of a working relationship between SVSG and the Church.

According to the church leader, we came to visit, yet, we have discovered other ways in which we can help SVSG with regards to the spiritual guidance for the children.

A donation of $1,000 was presented during the visit to assist with the maintenance and the operation of the shelter facility.

SVSG welcomes the partnership with the Family of God Church of Vaitele and acknowledges the kind donation for the children.

Visitors from Rotorua New Zealand
Ms. Kate Townsley and partner her Mr. John Barker of Rotorua New Zealand coordinated a "Bra Drive" for our girls at the Campus.

In September, they visited Samoa and presented this kind donation to children.

Thank you Kate and John for such a lovely gesture in support of the children under our care.

LDS Church Ongoing Support
Bishop Afoa Esau and Mr. Maua Selimo dropped off some much needed firewood and coconut to assist with the daily cooking for the children of hope. This is the usual practice by the various Stakes of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints as part of the Church’s partnership with SVSG.

Thank you to the Sunday School of the Aleisa East Stake for the kind donation.

Haeta Community Campus of Christchurch
Close to 22 students and teachers from the Haeta Community Campus spend 2 days with the children during the school’s visit early October. Organized by Pastor Jeremy & Shelly of the SVSG (Christchurch), the 2-days fellowship was an emotional one. The students were overwhelmed by the courage of the children of hope.

Thank you Pastor Jeremy continuing to advocate for support for SVSG, as highlighted once again by the beautiful fellowship between the children of hope and the Haeta students. Thank you also for the provision of lunch and gifts as part of the visit.
Youth Group: Congregational Christian Church of Samoa, Luatuanuu

On a Saturday before the children’s White Sunday, close to 30 youths from the CCCS Luatuanuu Youth Group spend the morning with the children.

It was the youths way of celebrating White Sunday with the residence of the Campus.

Thank you Reverend Elder Aila & Valasi Patea, the youth leaders and members of the CCCS Luatuanuu Youth Group for always remembering the children of hope during this special time of the year. The donation of $1,000 presented during the visit will help us provide for the daily needs of the children.

Janisha Birthday Celebration at the Campus

Jay and Munita Krishna started planned their daughter Janisha’s 2nd birthday to be celebrated at the Campus with the children of hope way before Janisha’s special day in October.

With lunch, snacks and a birthday cake, the children had a lovely party of their own. Thank you so much Jay and Munita for choosing to celebrate Janisha’s birthday with the children of hope.

We hope Janisha enjoyed the special treatment by the children of hope, as much as the children were honored to be the special guests during Janisha’s birthday party.

St. Mary’s Catholic School of Tauranga

The beautiful singing from close to 60 students and teachers from the St. Mary’s Catholic School of Tauranga New Zealand resounded throughout the Campus of Hope during the school’s visit in October.

Led by the School Principal Mr. Ben Fuller and accompanied by the School Head of Religious Studies Ms. Teresa Rush and Sister Emile, it was one of the huge visiting groups to the Campus.

The children enjoyed their games and fun activities while the parents and teachers of the school sat down with the staff at the Campus to share experiences on taking care of children.

For a first time visit, it was a memorable experience for everyone. We look forward to seeing you next time St. Mary’s Catholic School. Donation of miscellaneous children supplies were donated by the school as well as $801.50 and were received with much appreciation by the SVSG President and the children of hope.

S.I.S.D.A.C Lends a Hand

The Independent Seventh Day Adventist Church (S.I.S.D.A.C) of Upolu West paid a visit to the Campus in October and presented a donation of $3,000 to the SVSG President as a gift for the children for White Sunday.

Led by Pastor Papalii Iefata Masipau, the donation was to help with the children’s daily needs while under SVSG’s care.

Thank you so much Pastor Papalii Iefata Masipau and the congregation of the S.I.S.D.A.C Upolu West for the continuous support provided for the children of hope.