



# SAMOA VICTIM SUPPORT GROUP

## NEWSLETTER

JANUARY – MARCH 2025



CELEBRATING  
**20<sup>th</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY  
Years Of Partnership and saving lives

# Message from SVSG President:

Talofa lava

These first three months of 2025 have been amazing with God's abundance upon the SVSG work here in Samoa. It was a term of thanksgiving as well as a time of giving back to the community, to those who are in need of food, clothing, and all basic living necessities. It was also a time of reciprocity, where SVSG, through its welfare, shared its abundant blessings with the communities, and on the other hand, was filled by the love and giving hearts of our local and overseas partners.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of SVSG since its inception in 2005, and there are so many stories to share and reflect upon after navigating both storms and blessings throughout these two decades. With much pride, we acknowledge the collaborative efforts of SVSG and its partners in the success of this 20-year journey, while holding the fort with humbleness, knowing that God has been behind all these organizational achievements.

January began with hope in the SVSG 'Aiga', as we mapped out all planned activities for the celebration of our 20 years. The staff and all SVSG personnel commenced 2025 with the revival of our prayer meetings, believing that God is the only source of strength and favour that enables SVSG to move forward and achieve its goals. February has been fantastic as we continue our community projects and begin court proceedings for our 2025 cases. March focused on raising awareness and engaging with our SVSG youth advocacy in schools and communities, while also serving the visitors who came with open arms to the Campus of Hope.

Despite the positive mindsets, social issues still emerged from our cases and the ongoing records of our 24/7 Free Helpline callers. The tireless efforts of the SVSG staff, its Sui Auai, and all of its partners have made these three months truly memorable.

With all these efforts, I would like to kindly acknowledge the helping hands of the volunteers, along with the support from local and overseas partners of SVSG in achieving our goals.

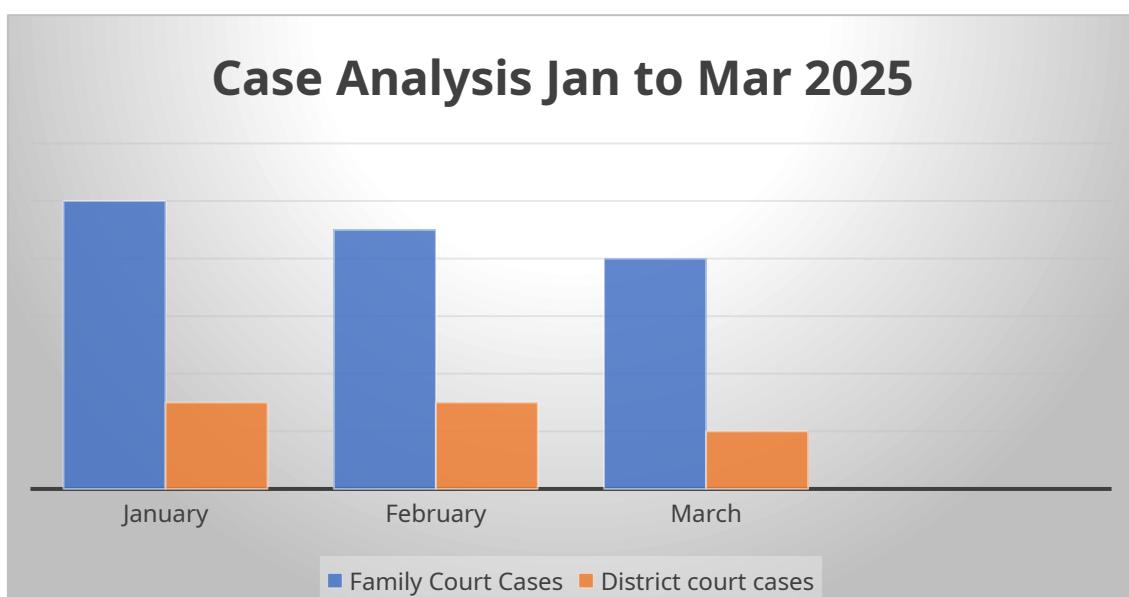
Faafetai, Faafetai tele lava.

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**Siliniu. Lina. Chang.**  
**PRESIDENT.**

## Summary of our Case Analysis from January to March 2025.

From January to March, SVSG has observed an increase in family court cases, influenced by several contributing factors. District court cases follow closely as the second highest category of family-related issues, indicating a rising trend in cases concerning family relationships. The chart below illustrates the trends in these cases over the three-month period.



Family court cases are the most prevalent issue in SVSG case management records for the months of January to March, which identify several contributing factors:

**Alcohol Problems**

Many women report that their husbands have alcohol-related issues. These habits negatively affect the amount of time husbands spend with their

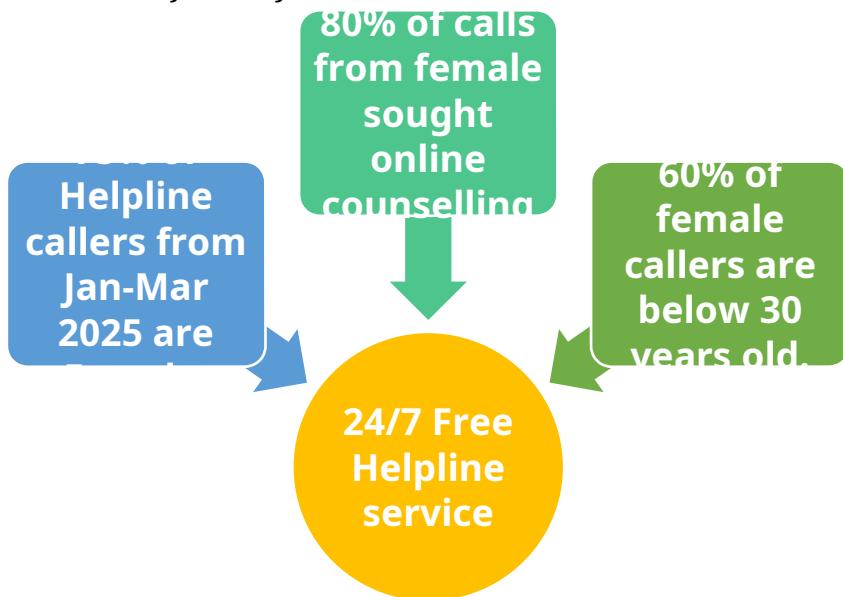
	<p>wives and children, impact family income, and lead to conflicts, including incidents of intimate partner violence (IPV).</p>
<b>Adultery</b> 	<p>Women often come to the SVSG office seeking help after discovering their husbands' affairs with other women. This situation creates tension between couples, and many wives find themselves alone with children, lacking the support of their husbands, who are typically the primary earners in the family.</p>
<b>Domestic Issues</b> 	<p>Various domestic family issues contribute to the increasing number of cases between couples. Many conflicts arise from minor problems that should ideally be resolved internally by the parents themselves.</p>
<b>Social Issues</b> 	<p>There is often a reflection of immaturity among young mothers and young fathers, which can lead to family court cases. These factors highlight the complexities underlying family court cases and the importance of addressing them effectively.</p>

Addressing social issues on a daily basis is challenging for SVSG; however, these challenges also empower and strengthen the SVSG team, enabling them to stand firm and respond effectively to their clients and victims. The staff consistently maintains a professional approach in their practice, and ensure the application of the SVSG Safeguarding process with the 'Do No Harm' approach.

## SVSG 24/7 Free Helpline Service:

The SVSG Free Helpline service operates 24 hours a day and is managed by the SVSG Case Management team. Thanks to strong partnerships between SVSG and the telecommunication companies Digicel Samoa and Vodafone Samoa, this service effectively supports the remote population in need.

The following is a summary and analysis of the Helpline calls received and supported by SVSG from January to March.



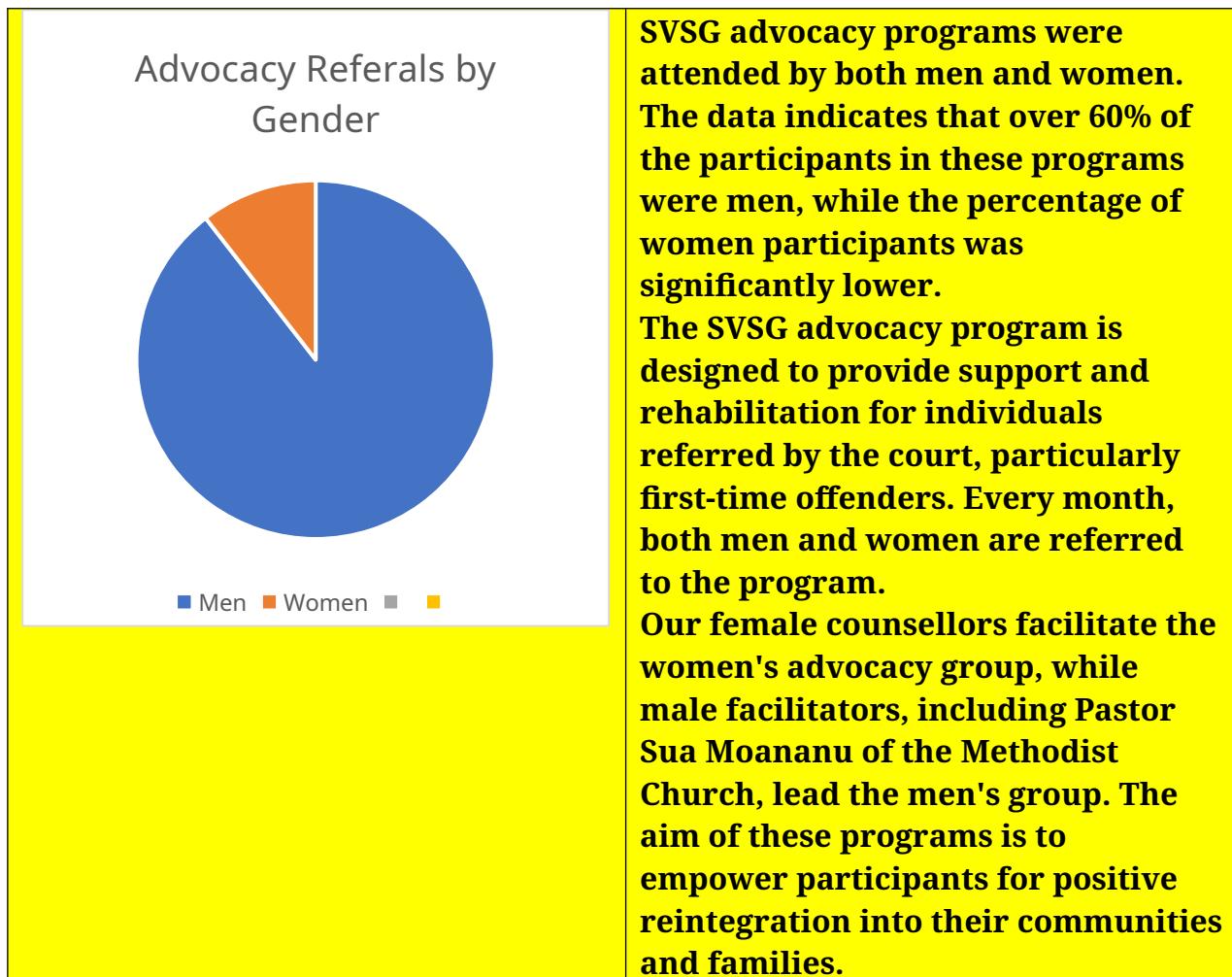
The above figure highlights the key statistics of the SVSG Free Helpline for the three months from January to March 2025. It indicates that female callers made up 75% of the total, with the 60% being under 30 years old. These women reached out for support through SVSG's online counselling to seek reassurance regarding their domestic issues, particularly concerning their relationships with their husbands and family members.

A common concern expressed by these callers was their struggle to care for their young children and their need for assistance in raising them. Many young mothers specifically inquired about how SVSG could help them, especially when their spouses or partners had abandoned them, leaving them without financial support for their small families.

This situation highlights the stress and trauma experienced by young mothers as they transition into motherhood, particularly when their families and spouses are not very supportive. The SVSG has responded by providing online counselling and through these conversations, some women have been able to regain their sense of self. Young mothers often need assistance in reconnecting with their surroundings and realizing that support is available to them at home.

## SVSG Court Support and Advocacy for Men & Women.

From January to March 2025, the



**SVSG Counselling Service:** *SVSG counselling is an ongoing service not only within the Campus of Hope for the children and the new comers to the shelter, but also, the victims from cases and referrals from the court. SVSG Counselling and medical centre is operated in the Campus of Hope and it is headed by Afoga, Sister Jacinta. Fidow and her Psychosocial team.*

## January Highlights!

January began with generous visits from local and international partners who supported SVSG through their in-kind and financial donations. SVSG is grateful

for these supportive communities, which inspire our work in saving lives and aiding the most vulnerable individuals in Samoa.



**On January 6, 2025, Ministry of Savali a Keriso from Hossanna Christian Church in Brisbane made their first visit to the Campus of Hope. They generously donated in-kind items and a contribution of 2,000 tala for the children. It was a memorable day filled with laughter and smiles as the children interacted with the visitors, dancing and sharing encouraging words from the Bible. Siliniu, Lina, and Chang expressed their gratitude to this wonderful community of angels for their kind support of the children, who are in great need of assistance.**

## SVSG Welfare in January

SVSG Welfare is a community service initiative aimed at supporting the most vulnerable families living in poor conditions. Families are identified by the SVSG Sui Auai (village representatives) based on the number of dependents, the families with disabled family members, and elderly members with little to no income to support their daily living. SVSG Welfare is a youth-led initiative that also helps develop the capacity of SVSG Youth members by engaging them in humanitarian work, such as supporting these community members.



## SVSG Youth First Meeting of 2025:

**The SVSG Youth Executive Committee held its first meeting of 2025 on January 16th to plan youth projects for the year. SVSG Youth is a branch of the organization dedicated to supporting the implementation of SVSG initiatives aimed at young people and youth groups at the community level. Composed of youth volunteers, the committee gathered after their work commitments to discuss their SVSG Youth-led activities and develop project execution plans to share with the SVSG Youth in Savaii Island.**



## SVSG Young Human Rights Advocate.



**Seventeen-year-old Gloria Talopa'u, a young female human rights activist from Pesega College, began volunteering for SVSG in January. She joined a team of young volunteers and dedicated her time to assist with English reading lessons for children, all on a voluntary basis.**

***"It was truly exciting to be surrounded by the children. I didn't expect the work to be so exhilarating. It has been an eye-opening experience for me. I believe more people should join and support these children who need it the most," Gloria expressed.***

### **SVSG Sui Auai (Village Representatives) Convened for 2025 Planning.**

The SVSG Sui Auai held its first meeting of the year in January to discuss the planned activities for the organization's 20th Anniversary celebration and upcoming projects for 2025. Prior to this general meeting, the Sui Auai Executive Committee convened to establish resolutions that would be communicated to the community for implementation.

The role of Sui Auai within SVSG is crucial. This voluntary service provided by the village representatives has been influential for the past two decades since SVSG was founded in 2005. The Sui Auai members are vital informants on child abuse cases at the community level; they serve as the eyes and ears of SVSG in the villages. They act as mediators and focal points of contact for the most vulnerable individuals, particularly children and women in village communities.



The generosity of SVSG's partners continued, and January 21 was a blessed day for SVSG when Sūla's Bakery made a generous donation of 5,000 SAT. The President of SVSG received this contribution with heartfelt gratitude, appreciating the bakery's support and love for SVSG. This donation will help SVSG provide essential care and support for the children and women at the SVSG Shelter, including daily meals, necessities, health checks, as well as covering the wages of the dedicated matrons and security guards.



### EFKS donated to SVSG in January 2025.

EFKS Tanoa Le I'a and Te Atatu, both part of the jointly visited the children at the Campus of Hope. To support the children. Rev. Elder Enefatu Lesa, his wife Seira, Rev. Filemoni Crawley, and his wife Alofa led a group of forty-five members from both congregations to this purpose. The visit began with a heartfelt prayer by Rev. Lesa. His comforting words, rooted in faith, uplifted the children and inspired hope. Elder Lesa highlighted their mission to ensure the children felt loved. Generous donations included \$2000SAT with food items and clothing were brought by the generous visitors for the campus of hope. President Siliniu. Lina. Chang thanked the church leaders for their hearts poured out to SVSG.



### A Warm-friendly visit from the Potters House Church.

Rev. Kurt Fatupaito, his wife Faletua Rosie Fatupaito, and the Potters House Samoa church family from Vaivase visited the Campus of Hope today, bringing love and compassion. They donated groceries, clothes, and food, while also spending quality time sharing a meal with the children. Their visit included uplifting spiritual songs and skits that brought joy to every child. Jennifer, a member of Potters House Samoa, beautifully stated, "I am loved, I have value, and I have hope and purpose in life." The children and staff at SVSG were deeply touched by this generosity. Your support and prayers can truly transform their lives. We are incredibly grateful for your continued compassion and generosity.

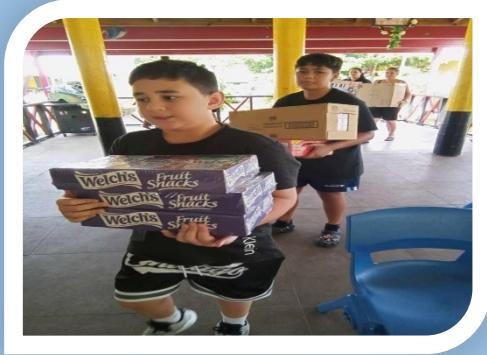


### **LDS Church Members Graced SVSG with their Visit in January.**

SVSG was honored to host Wayne Christopher Waddell, First Counselor of the Presiding Bishopric, and his wife, Sister Waddell, along with Brother and Sister Martin from New Zealand, Elder and Sister Bott (Welfare Missionaries), and Sauimalae Chu Ling, the Country Manager for Samoa. They visited to tour the campus and facilities supported by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints over the years. This faith-based organization has been a vital partner for SVSG, and we deeply appreciate their continued unwavering support in our work in Samoa.



### **SVSG Children in Shelter was 'Not Forgotten' by the Stunzner Family.**



The Stunzner Family, known as Samoa Spare Parts, recently visited the Campus of Hope (COH) to make a generous donation of \$1,000 and contribute food supplies. Tertia Ryan, Trude Stunzner's eldest sister, expressed their support, saying, "We think of you, we lift you in our prayers, and we always contribute little by little so we can visit you here at the Campus of Hope." This demonstrates their commitment to the children. During their visit, Tertia shared the gospel song "My God Loves Me," showcasing the profound love surrounding the children at COH. The Stunzner Family has maintained a strong partnership with COH, planning annual visits after New Year. President Madam Siliniu Lina Chang and SVSG management, expressed gratitude for their generosity. Together, they prayed for God's blessings on the business for continued growth and success, reinforcing the positive impact this ongoing relationship has on the children's lives.

### First Nofotane Life Skill training of 2025 in Maagiagi Village:

The Nofotane Life Skills training program expanded to Maagiagi village in January, where participants learned life skills such as Elei making, Sei making, and various handicrafts. This program benefits unemployed women in Nofotane who have low income. The training enhances their skills, enabling them to start their own small businesses, which will help support their families' daily needs. The SVSG NSSE (Nofotane Samoa Social Enterprise) project aims to empower women economically within their families and communities, contributing to the fight against violence toward women.



# February Highlights:

February has been a month filled with love from the communities, opportunities and hard work for SVSG. The opening of new possibilities through our development partners, along with the unwavering support from our SVSG partners and communities, has made our journey in February much easier. We continued our work while also initiating our action plan for our 20th anniversary celebration. With grateful hearts, we thank our Father God, knowing that He performs miracles for our SVSG Aiga every day.

## SVSG and UK British Embassy in their 'Talanoa' Session

The UK Consular Team, along with a delegation from the British High Commission office in Samoa, collaborated with the Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) today to enhance services for British nationals. The meeting aimed to provide the UK Consular team with a better understanding of the essential services offered by SVSG to individuals in need. This will enable the team to effectively refer British nationals in Samoa to SVSG when they encounter difficulties. The 'talanoa' session was also an opportunity for UK British High Commission to see how they can assist SVSG with their work.



## Tautua Project with SVSG Sui Auai

As part of the Tautua partnership with SVSG, training workshops for SVSG Sui Auai (village representatives) received funding from Tautua Human Development Project. Monitoring interviews were conducted by the Tautua consultants to assess and gather feedback from the Sui Auai who participated in these workshops. The discussions highlighted the significant impact of these workshops on enhancing the roles of all SVSG Sui Auai within their communities, particularly in their advocacy efforts to promote safer environments. The Sui Auai serve as mediators for SVSG in their villages, effectively contributing to the mission of

saving lives over the years. They have responded efficiently to instances of abuse and violence against children and vulnerable groups in their communities. The workshops provided by Tautua have improved their capacity to continue their voluntary work, ensuring a safer Samoan society through their roles within SVSG.



## Catholic Church Saleimoa Sunday school donated to SVSG

Father. Pone, from the Saleimoa Catholic Church community, donated food items for the children at the Campus of Hope. Each Sunday, the Sunday School from this church collects offerings, which they dedicate to assisting children in need through these donations. The SVSG President and team expressed their gratitude to the Church community for their generous spirit and willingness to help. It is truly a pleasure to witness support from our local church communities, as these contributions provide essential daily necessities for the children at the SVSG Campus of Hope. Fa'afetai tele!



## European Union Delegation in SVSG on February.

The European Union (EU) delegation, led by Mr. Dirk Homann and joined by Mr. Geshneel Verma and Mr. Gianluca Vannini, met with the Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) to assess the Nofotane Samoa Social Enterprise (NSSE) project's first-year impact.



This innovative initiative focuses on empowering Nofotane women through sustainable income and self-employment. With funding from the European Commission, the NSSE

project aims to tackle gender-based violence while contributing to six Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



During the visit, the EU team toured SVSG's Nofotane stores across Luatuanuu, Siumu, and Faleasi'u. The women expressed deep appreciation for the support, highlighting how the project has helped them manage family expenses, cover school fees, and overcome financial challenges. This initiative is truly fostering personal growth and sustainable income, demonstrating the power of support and collaboration in driving positive change.

### **Pesega College Prefects of 2025 brought Food and Clothing of SVSG.**

School Prefects of 2025 from Pesega College made a generous donation of food and clothing for the SVSG Campus of Hope. These students raised money for this good cause which is truly a blessing to see young humanitarian champions coming forward to support SVSG. President of SVSG and SVSG family have expressed thankful hearts to these young advocates who are still in school but their hearts have touched the lives of the young souls in SVSG Campus. The Children at the Campus have eaten, and have clothed thanks be to these students for you have brought smiles to the faces of our young children who are under our SVSG care.



### **SVSG Was Blessed by the Support of the Samoa Australia Police**

SVSG was truly blessed to have received the continued support of the Samoa Australia Police. Their recent donation brought so much joy to us. It included clothes, pencil cases, and other lovely items, all personally delivered to our main office in Apia by Advisor Peter O'Neill, SRO Simon Penny,

and Office Manager Pele Eseta. This was not the first time the Samoa Australia Police had supported us, and as they shared, it would not be the last. Their gift showed how much they believed in SVSG's work to save and change lives. Their kindness truly touched our hearts. SVSG President and the whole SVSG family were deeply thankful to Samoa Australia Police, your support meant so much to us. We looked forward to continuing this special friendship. **Fa'afetai**

**tele lava**, your care and generosity will never be forgotten.



### Samoa Association San Diego Charity! 🤍

The Samoa Association San Diego is a vital community in America, dedicated to promoting and enhancing understanding of Samoan culture, customs, traditions, and language among both the Samoan community and the general public. On February, President Papali'i Thomas Alailima, along with active members Galumanemana Doreen Alailima and Valasi Alailima, made a generous monetary donation to Siliniu Lina Chang, President of SVSG (Samoan Victims Support Group). Fa'afetai tele lava to the Samoa Association San Diego for your dedication to making a difference! Your efforts help SVSG with their tireless work.



### SVSG Sui Auai visited our Children.

Our very own Sui Auai (Village Representatives) made their first visit of 2025 to the Campus of Hope. They brought food supplies for the children to ensure their ongoing wellbeing. The Sui Auai and community representatives are the backbone of the SVSG's work in Samoa. Thank you very much for your invaluable service to Samoa through SVSG.



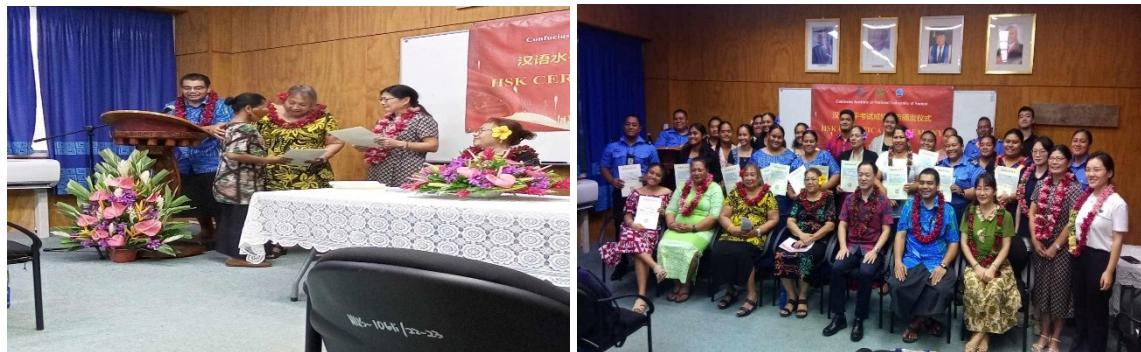
## March Highlights:

March 2025 has been a truly blessed month for SVSG. We have achieved remarkable milestones, showcasing the results of our hard work over the years and allowing us to reflect on our humble beginnings. The ongoing support from our partners and the community,

through donations and dedication to our mission, has inspired us to continue our vital work of saving lives in Samoa.

### **SVSG Students Graduated with Chinese Language Certificates from NUS.**

Seven SVSG students graduated with Chinese Language Certificates in early March. This program was supported by the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Chinese Embassy, allowing the SVSG students to learn and study the Chinese language while earning certificates. Our mission goes beyond simply caring for these children; we also aim to support their reintegration into society. As part of their rehabilitation, it is essential that their right to education and the opportunity to learn different languages are upheld, despite the traumatic experiences they have faced. We extend our heartfelt thanks to NUS and the Chinese Embassy for recognizing our children through your educational development program.



### **A Christian Fellowship Group Charity Visit on March.**

The Eagle Christian Fellowship, a wonderful group of people from Australia, America, New Zealand, Samoa, and Fiji, is currently in Samoa for a church conference. Before returning to their home countries, they took the time to visit the children at the Campus of Hope. They brought gifts for the children and made a monetary donation to assist SVSG with the daily care of the children in the shelter. A heartfelt thank you, and may the good Lord bless your kind hearts.



## **Samoa Police Women Advisory Network (SPWAN) visited the Children in SVSG.**

To celebrate International Women's Day 2025, themed 'Accelerate Action', the Samoa Police Women's Network took meaningful action by stepping away from their regular duties to visit the Campus of Hope. They brought food and a variety of in-kind donations for the children. The children at SVSG, especially the young girls, felt empowered by the presence of these female law enforcers, who showed love and care not only as their protectors of the law but also as nurturing figures. Led by Deputy Commissioner Papalii Moanalisa Keti, approximately 30 members of the group visited and brought smiles to the faces of the children.



## **New Zealand High Commissioner to Samoa visited SVSG Campus.**

The New Zealand High Commissioner to Samoa, Her Excellency Sialei Vau Toor, personally visited the SVSG to witness the Campus of Hope first-hand. During her visit, she learned about the services available at the Campus and engaged with the children in need of support. This visit also empowered the children by showing them that they are valued by everyone, including Her Excellency, the New Zealand High Commissioner to Samoa.



## Team Sheraton Hotel Donated Clothing and In-Kind to Campus of Hope.

SVSG was fortunate to receive a generous visit from Sheraton Hotel, led by General Manager Sunil Rawat and Ms. Tinaka Taito. The Sheraton team brought donations of clothing, bedding, and food for the children at the SVSG shelter. We are truly grateful for the support from our partners in the business sector. Thank you so much, and may God bless you! Faafetai tele lava!



## Children's Day Out at the Vavau Beach.

SVSG, as a human rights advocate, promotes the rights of children to engage in recreational activities. In March, the children enjoyed a day out at the beach, and who says they don't deserve to have fun? The police provided transportation and security while the children made the most of their day at the beach. The matrons, caregivers, volunteers, and counsellors all joined in to ensure the children's safety while they enjoyed Vavau Beach. They swam, laughed, and had the best day of their lives. To conclude their fun day, the matrons and caregivers prepared

food, snacks, and drinks, making the day truly memorable for the children.





## Vaiala Beach School Students shared their love with SVSG Children.

Students at Vaiala Beach School have gathered donations of clothing, food, and treats for the children at the SVSG Campus of Hope. They raised funds by selling food items, allowing them to contribute to SVSG. The President of SVSG praised this wonderful initiative led by the young students. The donation brought smiles to the faces of the SVSG children, especially when they received reading cards filled with well wishes and messages from their friends at Vaiala Beach



School. From SVSG to Vaiala Beach School, fa'afetai Faafetai tele lava.

## SVSG Nofotane Project Continued to Empower Community Women at Lauli'i Village.

The Nofotane Life-Skill Training program has expanded in Lauli'i village, empowering local women by teaching them essential life and entrepreneurial skills. Approximately 50 to 60 women participated in this training, which has enhanced their ability to develop small businesses and contribute to the economic development of their families and communities. It is hoped that these skills will also assist in the fight against violence and abuse within families, particularly against

women.



## Capacity Building for SVSG Staffs on Safeguarding.

SVSG Safeguarding training is a mandatory requirement under the SVSG Safeguarding Policy for all new recruits and staff. This training ensures the protection of vulnerable children, women, individuals with disabilities, and everyone involved in SVSG's work. Led and facilitated by Sister Jacinta, our psychosocial team leader, the trainees learned about the importance of safeguarding not only to protect the individuals they serve but also to ensure their

own mental, spiritual, and physical well-being. Safeguarding reassures staff members of the necessary Code of Conduct outlined in the Policy, which all SVSG personnel are mandated to follow.



## Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saint shared the Love with SVSG.

President Tema Siaunuua and members of the Upolu Samoa Malie Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints fulfilled their promise to visit the children at the Campus of Hope, stating, "We will be back." The visit was filled with love and generosity, as the group donated food supplies and other essential items to the children. The President of SVSG expressed deep gratitude for the ongoing support and kindness shown by the Church and its members over the years. From SVSG, fa'afetai tele lava!



## Nofotane Samoa Social Enterprise (NSSE) Project meeting for Nofotane Community representatives.

Representatives from the Nofotane communities gathered in March to strengthen their plans and targets for project activities this year. The discussion included the introduction of quality standards for Nofotane products, emphasizing the need to make small businesses and products

marketable and sustainable. Additionally, issues and recommendations were discussed to improve the efforts of Nofotane in the communities and within SVSG.



## More Visits on March 2025:

In March 2025, the well-known Samoan boxer Jai Opetaia made a visit to the SVSG shelter, bringing joy to the children and everyone at the Campus of Hope. Additionally, long-time SVSG supporters Ray and Kris Currier also visited in March, bringing gifts and in-kind donations for the children. Their continued support and generosity whenever they are in Samoa is truly a blessing for SVSG.



## Free Medical Checks for SVSG Campus of Hope.

SVSG Shelter was fortunate to have Dr. Glenn Fatupaito on campus, providing free medical check-ups for all children and residents in March. This generous service greatly benefited SVSG, as having the doctor available on-site eliminated the need to transport the children to the hospital. SVSG expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Fatupaito for his dedication to serving this vulnerable population of children and women at the SVSG Campus of Hope.



## Donations to SVSG from January to March 2025

SVSG has long relied on the generosity of our partners and donors to sustain our work. In the first three months of 2025, we were truly blessed to receive both financial and in-kind support from the compassionate donors listed below. These contributions have played a vital role in supporting the salaries of our SVSG staff, including carers, matrons, and teachers. They have also helped us cover the daily operational needs of our shelters and the care of the children under our protection, enabling SVSG to continue its essential services during this period.

The financial donations for January to March totalled up to over **\$60,000SAT**.

We are deeply grateful for the continued love and support that makes our mission possible.

<b>DONORS</b>	<b>DONORS</b>	<b>DONORS</b>
Savali o Keriso Ministry	Fale Pasefika Women Refuge	Rhys Webb
SULAS BAKERY	Foster Family	Govt. of Samoa
Stanzner Family	Eagle Christian Fellowship	Zumba Donations
Autalavou EFKS Sapapalii	Makerita Donation for zumba	Nightlight Christian Adoption
Ivan & Arlene McLellan	Sai Motors	WHO
Joseph Nyemal	Apia Concrete Products	NZ Methodist
Rys Webb	Vaiala Beach School	Graig's Bakery
Govt - Disability	Rhys Webb	
CR DOORS	UCL	
Szebediy Family	Theodore Family	

# SVSG Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conducts for working with Children.



**SVSG Free 24/7 Free Helpline Service.**

#Samoa

You are  
not alone,  
we are here  
for you.

Everyone has a right to be safe at home.  
Reach out to us if you are experiencing  
domestic violence, or any other form of abuse.

Helpline  
**800-7874**

Our counsellors are available 24/7  
on the above toll-free number to provide  
you with reliable and confidential support.



Alaga Ia Ia Samoa | 1800-7874 | [www.svag.gov.ws](http://www.svag.gov.ws) | [svag@minf.gov.ws](mailto:svag@minf.gov.ws)